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SIXTEEN PAGES - ONE RIYAL

At autonomy talks

Israel mulls U.S. plan to seat PLO

WASHINGTON, April 18 — Israel is considering a new American proposal that would allow the Palestine Liberation Organization to sit in the autonomy negotiations as part of a Jordanian delegation, American sources said.

President Carter raised the proposal during his two-day summit with Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin this week, the sources said.

Begin did not accept or reject the proposal, but instead the Israeli leader is taking it to Israel for further discussion with his cabinet.

U.S. officials believe Israel will ultimately agree to the American proposal, they said.

The U.S. official has presented their proposal to the PLO, which has not rejected it, sources said.

A new suggestion comes in the context of a "continuing committee" that will meet to deal with unresolved issues if Egypt and Israel are able to reach a general autonomy agreement on or after the May 26 deadline.

S. officials said formation of this committee, provided for in the Camp David accords, is a body to deal with Palestinian problems and other matters "other of common concern," would enable Egypt and Israel to sign a general autonomy accord even if the autonomy questions remain unresolved by the May 26 deadline.

Under the new U.S. proposal, PLO membership would be allowed to join the "continuing committee" as members of the Jordanian delegation.

There would also be a separate Palestinian delegation, composed of non-PLO members from the occupied territories, Jordan and Iraq.

The Egyptian-Israeli-Jordanian-Palestinian committee would conduct ongoing negotiations to resolve the details of the autonomy arrangement for the occupied territories during the five-year transitional period following elections for the self-governing authority.

Begin's decision to consider the U.S. proposal was a breakthrough by Egypt, U.S. sources said.

His Israeli "compromise" led Carter and Begin to agree to a pre-May 26 PLO autonomy talks to be held in the Middle East rather than Washington.

After also deciding not to apply strong pressure on Begin during this week's summit, Begin said the Israeli leader would even agree to the proposal on PLO participation.

At his press conference Wednesday, Begin said he and Carter had not discussed a possible three-way summit of the Egyptian, Israeli and U.S. leaders prior to the May 26 deadline.

U.S. officials said afterwards that the American officials said afterwards that the

Morocco severs Libya ties over Sahara dispute

ABAT, April 18 (AP) — Morocco severed diplomatic relations with Libya Friday after Libyan leader Col. Muammar Qaddafi recognized the independence of Western Sahara, the Moroccan Foreign Ministry said. Morocco claims sovereignty over the formerly Spanish-ruled territory to its southwest. It is opposed by Polisario, an Arab-backed guerrilla movement seeking independence for the desert zone. The Libyan ambassador here, Chihab al-Muhammedi, was informed of the break by Foreign Secretary of State Abderrahmane Badier.

Observers here said the move was a logical consequence of Libya's recognition of the Polisario.

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Zimbabwe begins anew as Mugabe sworn in

SALISBURY, April 18 (Agencies) — Nine decades of white domination came to an end with the swearing-in of Robert Mugabe, a guerrilla leader in Rhodesia's seven-year bush war, as Zimbabwe's first prime minister.

In addition, West Germany and the Republic of Zimbabwe established diplomatic relations on an ambassadorial level, and Japan extended a grant of five million yen in aid to the newly-established country. A special Japanese envoy conveyed the message to Mugabe during independence ceremonies.

During the ceremonies, the 56-year-old Mugabe told whites in a nationwide radio and television address, "If yesterday I fought you as an enemy, today you have become a friend and ally with the same national interest, loyalty, rights and duties as myself."

"If yesterday you hated me, today you cannot avoid the love that binds me to you," he declared.

The war, which began after then ruling white minority rebelled against impending black rule in 1965 and broke away from Britain, reaped a rich harvest of bitterness among both whites and blacks.

But since his sweeping victory in February in British-supervised independence elections, Mugabe has preached reconciliation, downplayed his Marxist politics and urged his followers not to replace white oppression with black oppression.

Conspicuous by their absence from the independence festivities were Ian Smith, the former white prime minister who sparked the 1965 rebellion, and Bishop Abel Muzorewa, the black who became prime minister in April 1979 after locally organized elections to bring black-majority rule. That election's results were not recognized by the outside world because the guerrillas did not take part.

Smith was on a speaking tour in neighboring South Africa. Muzorewa watched the ceremonies on television at home.

Except for those who were invited to the stadium, most other whites seemed to be at home Thursday night. White suburbs were quiet and there was little traffic.



Mrs. Gandhi



President Zia

Gandhi-Zia summit inconclusive

SALISBURY, April 18 (R) — Indian Premier Indira Gandhi and Pakistan President Zia ul-Haq held their first summit meeting here Friday but their talks on the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan appeared to have been inconclusive.

"There is nothing more to be said (about Afghanistan)," Mrs. Gandhi told reporters after the 55-minute meeting in a hotel where the two leaders are staying for

Zimbabwe independence celebrations.

"The common factor is that we want it solved," she added. President Zia indicated Thursday that he would ask Mrs. Gandhi to use her offices with the Kremlin to persuade the Russians to withdraw from Afghanistan.

But neither of the two leaders alluded to this initiative Friday in their brief conversation with reporters.

Arab envoys, PLO to re-evaluate efforts for Security Council vote

Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON, April 18 — United Nations ambassadors of the Arab states, along with the PLO's U.N. representative, will meet in New York next week to "re-evaluate" their efforts to gain a Security Council vote on a draft resolution supporting Palestinian rights, diplomatic sources said.

The Arab envoys are expected to agree to withdraw the resolution temporarily from consideration by the Security Council, because of a lack of a Western European consensus in support of the resolution, the sources said.

The U.N. council has been discussing the draft, which recognizes the Palestinians' right to an independent state, since it was approved several weeks ago by the U.N.'s committee on Palestinian rights.

The Arab ambassadors had hoped to rally Western European support behind the resolution, but the key European states on the Security Council have decided to withhold their support pending developments in the

U.S.-sponsored Palestinian autonomy talks, sources said.

Even France, which initially favored supporting the draft, has now decided that the timing of the resolution is not right, according to the sources.

Britain has been lobbying for a delay on the resolution, saying that the Carter administration deserves a chance to continue its Palestinian autonomy efforts until the May 26 deadline set forth in the Camp David accords.

The United States has announced its intention to veto the proposed resolution, but the Arab states were determined to press for a vote if the Western European countries would back the draft, sources said.

Now that European support is lacking, the Arab envoys at the U.N. plan to meet early next week to re-assess their initiative and study the options open to them at this point, the sources said.

The lack of a European consensus means that the envoys will "most likely" decide to withdraw the resolution until a propitious time, one diplomat said.



LONDON MEETING: British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington meets with Saudi Arabian Charge d'Affaires Nagi Mofdi during a series of meetings with Arab leaders earlier this week. The meetings originally were planned to discuss Middle East and other world developments, but reports indicate a primary topic was the recent British showing of *Death of a Princess*. Both Arab and British officials denied that the controversy was connected with the meetings.

One killed in Beirut

Iraq, Iran feud heightens

BEIRUT, April 18 (R) — Unidentified gunmen in a speeding car shot dead a youth and wounded another in predominantly Muslim West Beirut Friday, apparently the latest incident between Lebanese supporters of Iraq and Iran.

Beirut radio, which reported the shooting, said the youths were selling a newspaper but did not identify the publication. Right-wing Falangist radio said the paper was published by the Shiite Muslim Amal Movement, which supports Iran.

Earlier Thursday heavy fighting with mortars, rockets and machine guns broke out in Beirut, carrying savage clashes between rival Lebanese supporters of Iraq and Iran.

Police said a total of 20 persons were killed and more than 40 wounded in the bitter fighting.

A police spokesman said many dead bodies were recovered from embattled areas in southern Beirut.

No quick casualty figure was available for the new hostilities in Bourj El Barajneh and the mid-city Barbir district, the spokesman said.

8,000 casualties in Soviet ranks, U.S. estimates

WASHINGTON, April 18 (Agencies) An estimated 8,000 Soviet troops have been killed or wounded in Afghanistan during the past four months, the U.S. State Department said.

State Department spokesman Hodding Carter also told reporters Thursday that the Soviet-led Afghan army units are becoming increasingly rebellious toward Kremlin control.

According to U.S. officials, the 8,000 reported casualties represent slightly less than 10 per cent of the total 85,000 Soviet troops in Afghanistan.

Carter did not say how many of the casualties are deaths. But Defense Secretary Harold Brown recently estimated at 1,400 the number of Soviet soldiers killed in clashes with Afghan freedom fighters.

The Soviet Union has not issued any casualty reports.

Spokesman Carter told reporters that Afghan troops have continued to desert their Soviet-led units and cited unconfirmed reports of what he called an apparent mutiny by Afghan soldiers at Bagram Air Force Base north of Kabul.

Soviet forces have been in charge of security operations at the base since their intervention in Afghanistan last December.

In London, a spokesman for the freedom fighters said more than 300,000 Afghans have been killed since the fighting began.

Professor Burnhamuddin Rabani of the Islamic Alliance for the Liberation of Afghanistan, increased the American estimate to 10,000 Soviet troops dead.

In fighting Thursday, Soviet troops using artillery and helicopter gunships have launched a large assault against the fighters in eastern Afghanistan, according to a resident who reached Pakistan.

The Afghan, who declined to be identified, said women and children civilians were killed and 65 insurgents mortally wounded in the attack.

Many survivors took refuge in caves near Baluchistan, about 12 miles east of Jalalabad, capital of Mangarhar Province, he said. Russian casualties were being flown out of the area by helicopters and their number was not known, he added. His report could not be independently confirmed.

Afghanistan's Marxist rulers Friday called for talks with Iran and Pakistan in a bid for recognition by their staunchly Muslim neighbors.

18 killed in Israeli attack on Lebanon

SARAFAND, Lebanon, April 18 (Agencies) — Seaborne Israeli commandos, backed by a helicopter and gunboat barrage, Friday stormed a house in southern Lebanon used by Palestinian commandos and killed 18 persons including three children, Palestinian sources said.

Six commandos died in a two-hour battle with the Israeli force which struck soon after midnight near this south Lebanese village. The village is about 40 kilometers north of the Israeli border.

Sources said the other casualties were civilians. They also said the Israelis blew up the house that was being used by the Palestinians as a medical clinic. Another house was damaged badly in the shelling and almost destroyed.

Eyewitnesses said the Israeli attack lasted more than two and a half hours. It was preceded by an artillery barrage from Israeli vessels lying off-shore. The Israelis returned to the ships after the raid.

Friday's attack closely follows an attack Thursday when rightist militiamen turned their big guns on a south Lebanese village in the U.N. peace-keeping zone and overran a U.N. observer post.

Local reports said the militiamen opened fire with heavy artillery on Al-Tiri village from the border enclave along the Israeli frontier and threatened to shell homes again unless the inhabitants ousted the U.N. peace-keepers.

The commander of the Israeli-backed militia, Saad Haddad, gave the villagers a 24-hour ultimatum to drive out the Irish contingent of the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon, who control the sector in which Al-Tiri is located. Three houses were severely damaged.

For the last two weeks the village has been the focus for a bitter confrontation between the international "force" and the rightists, who have killed a Fijian and Irish soldier in clashes. A spokesman in Beirut said that an observation post manned by two Americans, a Canadian and a Fijian was overrun Thursday by eight militia members who crashed their armored vehicle through the gate.

Cuba refugees offered haven in S. Lebanon

SIDON, April 18 (R) — The commander of the Israeli-backed right-wing militia in southern Lebanon has offered to accommodate 1,000 Cuban refugees in the southern Lebanese border strip, the militia radio reported.

It quoted renegade army Maj. Saad Haddad as saying he was prepared to receive 1,000 Cuban refugees and ensure lodging and employment for them.

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Projects up for review

AIC Board to meet Sunday

By a Staff Writer

RIYADH, April 18 — The Board of the Arab Investment Company will hold a two-day meeting here beginning Sunday to review its projects in the Arab world, and Tuesday its General Assembly will meet to discuss the annual report.

The company was established 1974 with a capital of \$300 million by a number of Arab states to participate in equities and to lead money for establishing projects in member countries.

The company joined Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Sudan in financing the Kenana Sugar Company in Sudan for the cultivation, refining and distribution of sugar. Built at a cost of \$600 million Kenana is the largest of its kind in the Arab world and one of the largest in the Western world.

The company met with Arab businessmen in Jeddah last week to introduce itself and to tell the businessmen that it was created to help them realize some of their projects by lending them money or participating in

equity and profits.

So far, results are good, according to Abdul Rahman Al Sai, director-general. Already the company has \$500 million in its treasury. Last year, it made a profit of \$17 million compared to \$9.6 million the year before.

Kenana has an integrated sugar estate and factory complex at Sufeiya, south of Khartoum. Production started in February with a target of 40,000 tons of refined white sugar this year. At full production, the factory will have a daily crushing capacity of 17,000 tons of sugar cane and an annual output of 330,000 tons of refined sugar.

The company also has asked Booker Agriculture International of the United Kingdom to do a feasibility study for Somali export of chilled meat to Saudi Arabia and the Gulf. Somalia now exports only canned meat from two factories in Mogadishu and Kismayo, but Saudi Arabia reportedly is emphasizing regional imports of frozen, unbutchered meat to reduce dependence on meat from other countries.



REUNION: President Richard Pedersen of the American University in Cairo with a group of alumni during his Friday visit in Jeddah. The purpose of his visit is to meet with alumni working in Saudi Arabia. The party was given by Fuad Anani.

Water project continues expansion

JEDDAH, April 18 (SPA) — Five turbine generators will be installed in the Jeddah water desalination projects in one for the October Pilgrimage season, according to Isam Jamjoum.

The deputy governor of the Saline Water Conversion Corporation Thursday said after inspecting the work site that the entire project will be finished by mid-1982. It will cost SR2.6 billion and will produce 85 million gallons of water. The plant's generating capacity will be 800 megawatts daily.

Jamjoum said the project will cover

250,000 square meters and 600 people are involved in the construction. In May, administrative and technical preparation will begin for the project.

The contract with the company carrying out the project also includes an 18-month training program for this plant's operators, which will begin when the plant begins test operations.

Jamjoum's visit to the work site included Abdul Aziz Nasif, director-general of the SWCC Western Region branches.

BRIEFS

RIYADH, April 18 (SPA) — Omani Minister of Endowments Sheikh Al-Walid bin Zaher Al-Hanae will arrive here Sunday on a three day official visit to the Kingdom. Hanae will hold talks with his Saudi Arabian counterpart Sheikh Abdul Wahab Abdul Wasie, minister of pilgrimage and endowments dealing with the mutual cooperation between the two countries on pilgrimage, endowments and Islamic affairs.

JEDDAH, April 18 (SPA) — Danish Energy Minister Poul Nilsen arrived here Friday on a two day visit to Saudi Arabia within the context of an Arab tour. Nilsen will discuss cooperation between the two countries with Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Sheikh Ahmad Zaki Yamani.

YANBU, April 18 — The Yanbu Municipality will start the distribution of 1,500 plots of land to landless applicants for home construction purposes. Another 1,500 plots also will be given away as soon as the designs for the areas involved are completed. The areas will have roads, public parks, government departments, schools and mosques.

QASIM, April 18 — The price of a bag of cement in Qasim will be fixed at SR14.5 for a period of six months pending a detailed study by the Commerce Ministry. A ministry spokesman said the report will help determine a definite price. Sources also reported that the Qasim Cement Company will begin producing large quantities of cement after five weeks of successful tests.

JEDDAH, April 18 — A new class of 150 students will graduate at the end of this month from the Passports and Visas Military Institute. The students already received preliminary training in Jordan. After graduation they will be deployed through the various departments in the Kingdom.

RIYADH, April 18 (SPA) — The General Organization for Grain Silos and Flour Mills will begin buying local wheat production from farmers at a price of SR3.5 for a kilo gram. The general director of the organization, Dr. Ahmad Shanawi, Friday said formalities for handing the product has been simplified. He urged farmers to approach the organization for more information to sell their wheat.

Saudi Comment

By Saleh Muhammad Jamal

Al Medina

It is a strange phenomenon that although a large number of Saudi Arabian young men look for jobs in government departments, an equally large number of alien contractees fill the government posts. These foreign workers even fill the ordinary positions such as the filling of diary and dispatch registers and circulation of files and papers.

When I asked an old official about the cause of this phenomenon, he said it started in 1975 when some departments were forced to employ foreigners for vacant posts. During the last five years, the number of school and college graduates increased, and consequently, a large number of Saudi Arabians were found seeking jobs. But having once appointed the aliens, the government departments continued to renew their contracts. They did not turn to the Civil Service Board to

make an announcement of the vacant positions.

I have received letters from Saudi Arabians hunting jobs and complaining against this phenomenon. They ask the board to find a solution to this problem.

I also have letters from some other Saudi employees who have been marking one in one position for more than a decade. Despite the fact they perform the job to the best of their ability, they don't see the board doing anything to improve their status. On the other hand, the contractees and those Saudi Arabians reapointed on the basis of labor laws, receive twice their salary regardless of the number of years involved in serving the department.

The letter writers also urge the board to look into their cases and to regularize their position, so that they are either promoted to the officials' grade or some cadres are created for such employees.

Electricity seminar starts today

DAMMAM, April 18 (SPA) — A seminar about electricity in Arab countries, organized by the Consolidated Electricity Company of the Eastern Province, will open here today. The seminar is to be attended by delegates of 17 Arab countries.

The seminar will last five days and it will discuss difficulties facing Arab electricity companies in running and maintaining gas turbines used to generate electricity. Technical reports presented by delegates will also be discussed.

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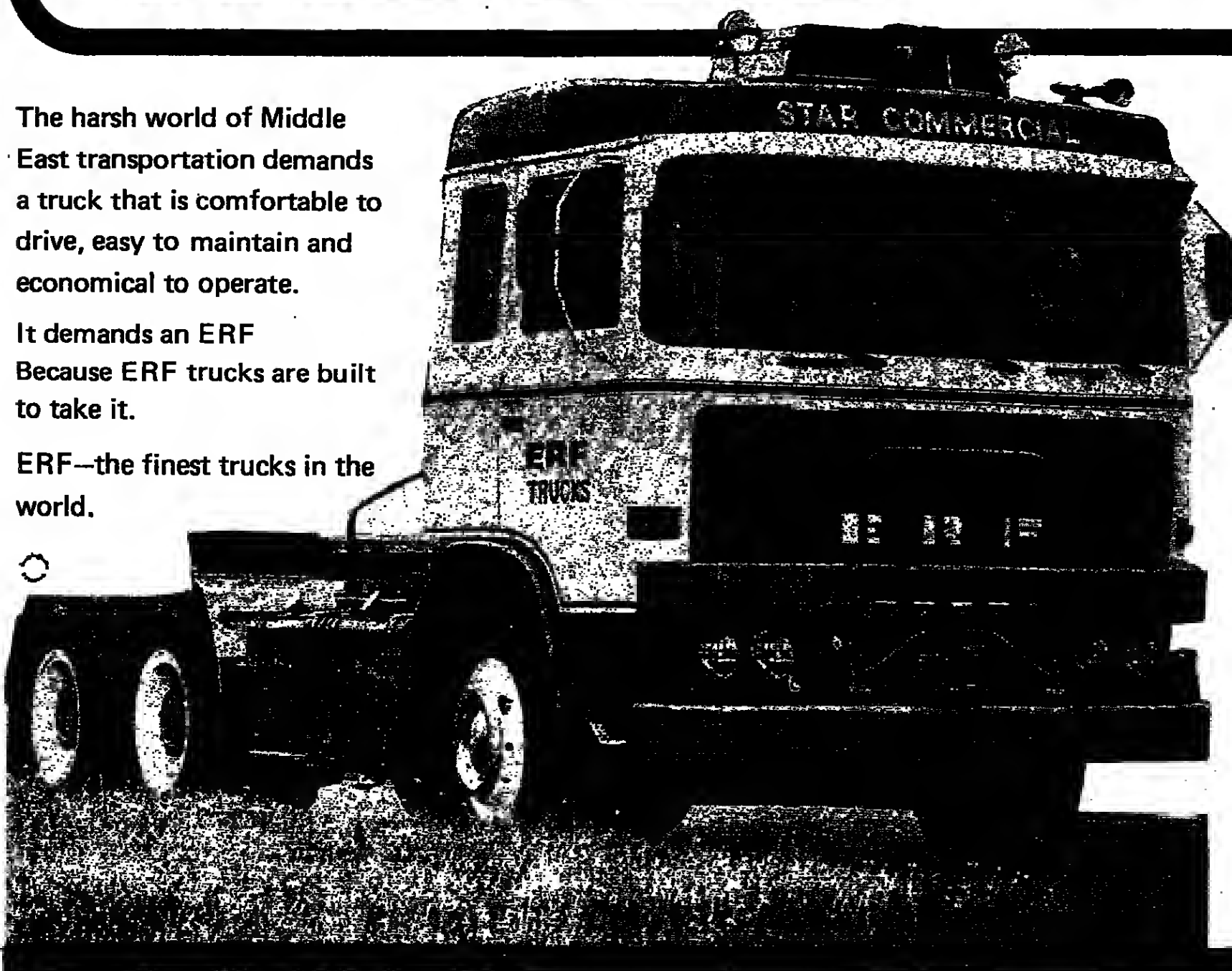
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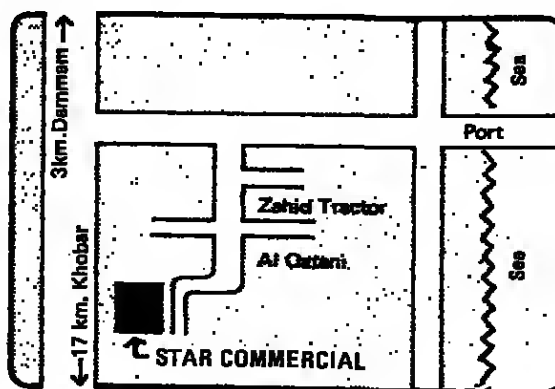
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مكتبة الامم

Pakistan to display wares

Trade exhibition slated

By a Staff Writer

JEDDAH, April 18 — Pakistani organizers will hold a trade exhibition in the Kingdom to introduce Saudi businessmen and

Sultan inspects military facility

RIYADH, April 18 (SPA) — Minister of Defense and Aviation Prince Sultan arrived here Wednesday from a tour of the Eastern Province, where he inspected military installations and attended the graduation of two groups from the Technical Institute of Dhahran.

Prince Sultan was received at the airport by Prince Fahd bin Sultan, deputy minister of labor and social affairs for social care; Geo. Muhammad Al-Hammadi, chief of staff; and other senior armed forces officials.

Barre holds talks

MOGADISHU, April 18 (SPA) — Somali President Muhammad Siad Barre conferred Thursday with a visiting delegation from the Mecca-based Muslim World League, led by the organization's assistant secretary general, Sheikh Muhammad Safwat Al-Saqa.

The meeting, which was attended by Saudi Arabia's ambassador to Somalia, Sheikh Taha Al-Dughayther, dealt with relations between the league and Somalia.

After arriving in Mogadishu, the delegation conducted meetings Wednesday with Somali officials — foremost among whom was Sheikh Ahmad Shir Ali, minister of state for religious affairs.

Koran contest to begin

RIYADH, April 18 (SPA) — Prizes will be awarded to winners of the Holy Koran and Suna competition Sunday at Imam Muhammad bin Saud Islamic University. The Department of Student Affairs is sponsoring the ceremony, which will occur in the Hall of the Sharia Faculty.

Before the ceremony, an exhibition will be held for an upcoming journalism competition. Scientific institutions and university faculty members will take part in the journalism competition.

Prizes of SR400,000 will be awarded in these two competitions by the Student Affairs Department. Dr. Abdullah Abdul Mohsen Al-Turki, rector of Imam Muhammad bin Saud Islamic University, will attend Sunday's ceremony.

consumers to merchandise produced in Pakistan, official sources said Friday. The organizers currently are looking for a suitable venue and hope to put up the show soon.

A number of Pakistani business houses are expected to participate in the show, which is to be sponsored jointly by the Pakistan embassy and Pakistan's official Export Promotion Bureau.

The exhibition, which will be one of the four single-country exhibitions planned for this year, is part of the bureau's drive to expand the country's exports especially in the Middle East states. Other countries where the show is to be held are Philippines, United States and Sri Lanka.

The show is to be the second major exhibition of Pakistani goods in the Kingdom. The first show was staged in Jeddah last year. Sources said the last show was a big success resulting in many of the exhibitors returning home with heavy orders from Saudi businessmen.

The planned exhibition is expected to put on display some new goods not marketed in the Kingdom at this time, sources added.

Pakistan's exports to the Kingdom at this time include rice, cotton textiles, ready-made garments, fabrics, tents and other canvas products, sports goods, surgical instruments, medicines, pharmaceuticals, hand-knotted carpets and handicrafts.

However, sources said several business parties lately have shown interest in Pakistan's light engineering and steel goods, particularly its diesel engines, water pumps, machine tools and agricultural implements.

One Pakistan embassy official said that in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1979, the country's exports to the Kingdom stood at SR321 million, as opposed to SR145 million in 1978. During the first half of the current fiscal year, Pakistan's exports to the Kingdom were about SR198 million, as opposed to SR146 million in the last corresponding period, he added.

PRAYER

TIMES

Saturday	Mecca	Medina	Najd
Fajr	4.43	4.39	4.12
Ishraq	6.03	5.54	5.35
Dhuhr	12.27	12.28	11.59
Assr	3.50	3.56	3.25
Maghreb	6.44	6.18	6.18
Isha	8.14	7.48	7.48

WEATHER

Temperatures are predicted to rise gradually in most areas, and unsettled weather will prevail in the northern region.

Winds in the northern regions will be strong, causing occasional sand storms. In the southern regions, winds will be moderate and may cause sand haze.

Clouds are expected to gather in parts of the western and south-western.

Seas will be moderate.

Friday's temperatures (maximum, minimum in centigrade)

Mecca	36	25
Jeddah	31	22
Riyadh	25	13
Dhahran	26	15
Medina	32	18
Tai	28	16
Jizan	33	26
Hail	26	08
Turaif	26	09
Qaisumah	27	09
Sulayyil	30	18
Abha	23	12



PREPARATIONS: A fishing boat sets out for a day's work. New measures taken by the government hope to increase the dwindling booty of these harvesters of fish.

State to provide technology

Kingdom to help fishing

JEDDAH, April 18 — King Khaled gave his approval in the establishment of a semi-state company to develop the country's fishing industry. A share offer will be announced shortly.

The intention is to double Saudi Arabia's annual catch to 32,000 tons, according to Dr. Nasser Al Saleh, director general of agricultural development at the Ministry of Agriculture and Water. He is also the ministry's representative on the board of the new company. The enterprise will be named the Saudi Fishing Company, he told *Saudi Business* magazine.

He said the government decided to go ahead with the venture after it came to the conclusion that the Kingdom's fishing industry needed high technology and aggressive planning. It was the only option open both for improving yield and improving the standard of fishing.

The company will cover the entire process of getting the fish out of the sea and to the housewife. Onshore it will establish facilities for taking and marketing catches. At sea the company will fish with its own fleet as well as going into joint ventures with international companies for fishing.

On the high seas the company will enter joint ventures for fish exploitation. It will market both its own catches and those of private fishermen.

The ultimate aim of the company is to have between 100 and 150 vessels of different sizes. Its first base will be at Juhail with a second stage of development covering the Jizan area. Jeddah will be third.

The venture has an initial paid-up capital of SR100 million, which may be raised

to SR200 million and will be qualified for all the facilities of government loans. The government will hold 40 per cent of the equity with the remainder to be sold at SR100 per share.

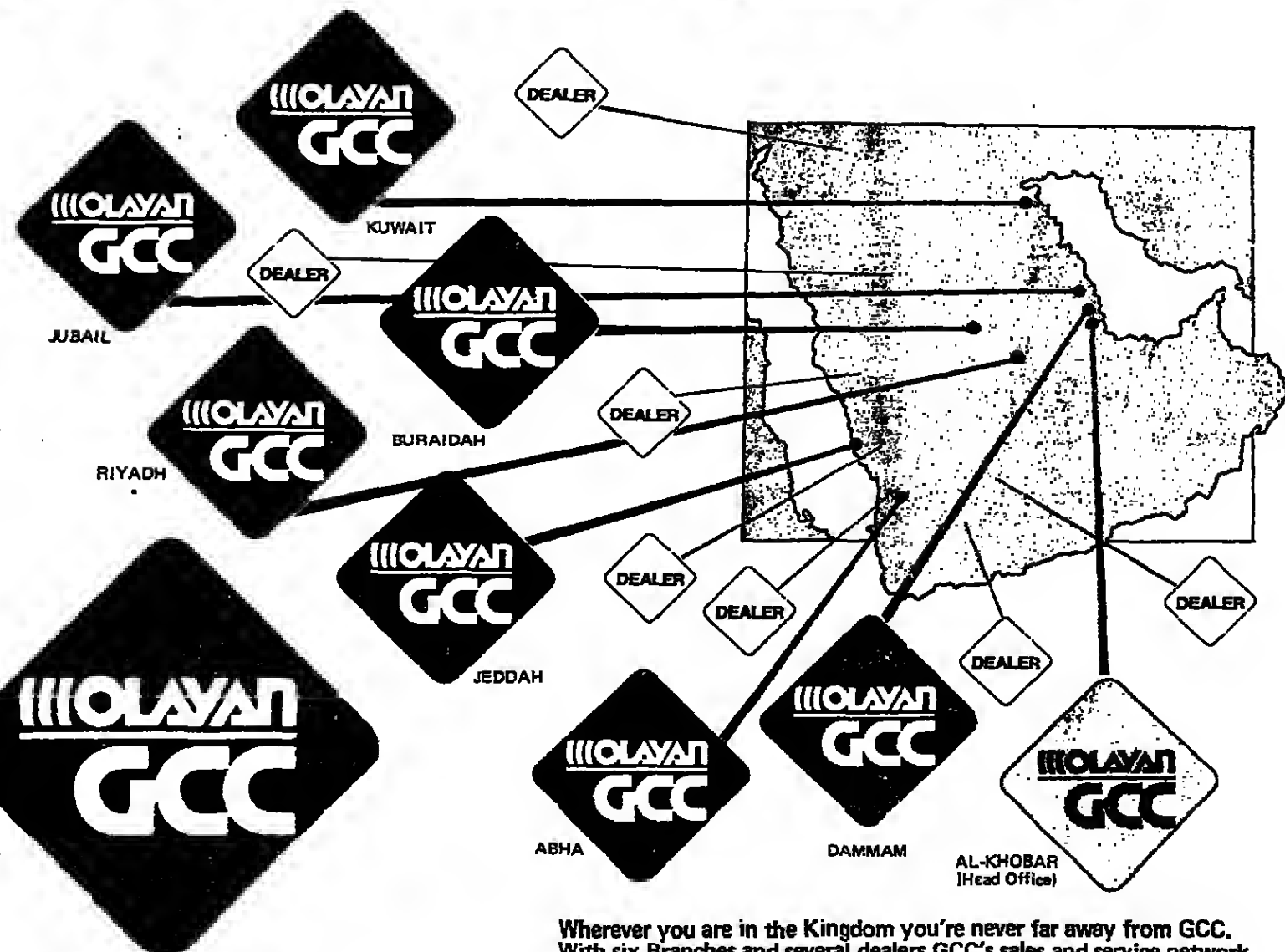
Saleh said the company's purpose is twofold. First, it is to improve the overall performance of fishing by its own fleet and its own marketing facilities. Secondly, it is to improve the performance of traditional fishermen through force of organization and example. The government is following the recommendations of the Fisheries Development Program, instituted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Water and the British White Fish Authority. The five-year program ended recently with a comprehensive report being sent to the government on how to save the industry.

Dr. Abdul Rahman Al Sheikh, the Minister of Agriculture and Water will chair the board, which will have three members from the government and five from the private sector. Apart from Saleh, the Ministries of Commerce and Finance and National Economy are to nominate members.

Fish represents 13 per cent of annual consumption in the Kingdom, but one half of that is provided by canned imports. There are 3,250 fishermen in the Red Sea and 1,500 in the Gulf, working 2580 boats powered by sail or oar in the Red Sea and 500 mainly motorized dhows in the Gulf.

In Jeddah, plans are moving ahead for a large fish market. Two weeks ago Mayor Muhammad Said Faris opened a temporary market, built by Abbar and Zaimy, that will replace the old one until a major new area is developed.

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American group to withhold taxes allocated for Israel

Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON, April 18 — Saying it is not enough to vocally oppose Israel's "dangerous and repeated violations of U.S. and international law," a small group of Americans has announced that they will withhold the amount of money they pay in federal income taxes which goes to support Israel.

"We are trying to sound the alarm," about the growing amount of aid Israel receives from the United States, stated Detroit attorney Abdeen Jabara at a press conference here last week.

In 1979 Israel received \$4.8 billion in U.S.

Israel's biggest gem theft nets \$2 million

TEL AVIV, April 18 (R) — Diamonds valued at more than \$2 million were stolen Friday from Israel's central exchange in what police described as the country's biggest ever gem theft.

Police said that an armed man burst into a dealer's offices in the Ramat Gan Diamond Exchange at the edge of Tel Aviv, tied up the dealer, a customer and a secretary, then fixed a hand grenade to a table.

The robber warned the three that the grenade would explode if they moved.

The dealer managed to break free after some eight minutes and sounded an alarm that automatically shut all entrances to the building.

economic and military aid. According to Jabara's group, on an average, this meant each American taxpayer (130 million) contributed \$37 of their federal taxes to Israel's support.

Therefore Jabara is urging U.S. taxpayers to withhold that \$37 from the taxes they pay for 1979.

Saying they want to "stem the blind tide" of aid to Israel, the group, which includes several prominent Arab-Americans, said its members are particularly concerned about the following facets of Israeli policy:

- the preemptive bombing of South Lebanon;
- the intensification of settlements in the West Bank and Gaza;
- the violations of human and civil rights;
- the strong evidence that Israel is escalating its nuclear arsenal;
- the Israeli support of dictatorial regimes.

Saying that he is prepared to "go all the way to jail" by his decision to withhold the \$37, Jabara said "it is incumbent on the American citizen to make a non-violent protest."

At the press conference, Jabara told the *Arab News* that he does not think the American people are aware of the facts on how much aid the U.S. gives Israel.

According to the figures supplied by the group, the \$37 chunk from each American taxpayer which goes to Israel is more, per capita, than U.S. taxpayers contribute for mass transit, urban renewal, higher education or alternative energy research in the U.S.

The group finds it "distressing" that Congress is proposing a \$400 million increase in military aid for Israel next year and at the same time cutting the federal budget for social service programs.

Martial law extended

Turkey faces presidential impasse

ANKARA, April 18 (R) — Turkey, staggering under the burden of 130 per cent inflation and increasing political violence in the throes of a new crisis over the election of a head of state.

After nearly four weeks of daily balloting, parliament has failed to elect a president to replace former admiral Fahri Koruturk, whose seven-year term expired two weeks ago. Until a new president is elected, parliament can pass no routine legislation.

The 635 seats of the national assembly, the joint sitting of the senate and lower house which elects the president, are fairly evenly divided between left and right-wing parties. Meanwhile, the Turkish government has extended martial law in most violence-torn provinces for a further two months.

The cabinet met Thursday and adopted a National Security Council recommendation that military control in 19 of the 20 provinces

already under martial law be extended for another two months starting April 26.

The cabinet also decided to lift martial law from eastern Erzurum province but to impose it on the province of Agri which borders on Iran, keeping the number an even 20.

The National Security Council, headed Thursday by acting-president Ihsan Sabri Caglayan, is composed of key ministers and armed forces commanders and is the country's highest advisory body.

According to Turkey's constitution, martial law can be proclaimed for two-month terms and needs to be renewed by government decision, followed by parliamentary endorsement.

Martial law was declared in 13 of Turkey's 67 provinces in December 1978, following bloody political and sectarian riots which cost 111 lives.



WOUNDED: This Israeli soldier, wounded during a Palestinian commando siege at Kibbutz Misgav-Am in Northern Israel recently, leaves the damaged nursery where the commandos raided before killing three Israelis.

Algerian students given ultimatum

TIZI/OUZOU, Algeria, April 18 (AFP) — Striking university students in this stronghold of the original Berber inhabitants of Algeria have unanimously rejected a government ultimatum to go back to their studies.

Meeting after a general solidarity strike Thursday which practically paralyzed town activity and was the first of its size in post-

independence Algeria, the students posed their own conditions for a return to class.

These included the "immediate release" of everyone arrested since the start of their movement — backing Berber cultural claims — and the ending "of police harassment" such as alleged intimidation, unjustified identity checks and arbitrary questioning.

Arab League chief plans Bonn visit

BONN, April 18 (R) — Arab League Secretary-General Chedli Klibi will visit Bonn next month for talks with Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and Foreign Minister Hans Genscher, the league's office here said.

Klibi, expected on May 7 for a stay of two or three days, would discuss the Palestinian

issue and other Middle East topics as well as ways of promoting the dialogue between Arab states and the European Common Market, a spokesman said.

The former Tunisian minister has visited Paris, Rome and London in recent months for similar discussions.

Syria to participate in Olympics

DAMASCUS, April 18 (R) — Syria will take part in Moscow's Olympic Games this summer, it was officially announced here Friday.

Reda Asfahani, chairman of the General Sports Union in Syria, said a mission comprising 98 athletes will go to Moscow one month before the opening ceremony on July 19.

President Jimmy Carter has called for the

boycott of Moscow's Olympic Games because of the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan.

A delegation from the Soviet committee organizing the games in Moscow arrived in Damascus earlier this week and held talks with Syrian officials on facilities for Syrian athletes.

Muslim journalists elect president

UNITED NATIONS, April 18 (AP) — The newly formed International Islamic Journalists and Writers Association announced Thursday the election of Hidayat Supangkat of Indonesia as its first president.

The association, based in New York, is

composed largely of Muslim correspondents working in New York, Washington and the United Nations. Its aim is to aid Muslim writers and correspondents and promote the ideals of Islam.

Supangkat is a correspondent for *Berita Buana* of Jakarta.

Syria frees 16 Phalangist detainees

BEIRUT, April 18 (AP) — Sixteen Lebanese rightist militiamen were released from Syrian jail Thursday after two years of reported arrest, a rightist radio station said.

The "Voice of Lebanon" radio said the 16 members of the rightwing Phalangist Party were given a "heroes' welcome rally at Beirut's eastern sector upon their return from Syria.

The 16 were apparently pounded up by Syria's 22,000 strong peace-keeping forces during clashes with the Phalangist Party in Beirut's eastern sector early in 1978.

Phalangist sources said the party had released last week 55 Syrian captives in a "good intention" gesture toward Syria after 26 months of animosity.

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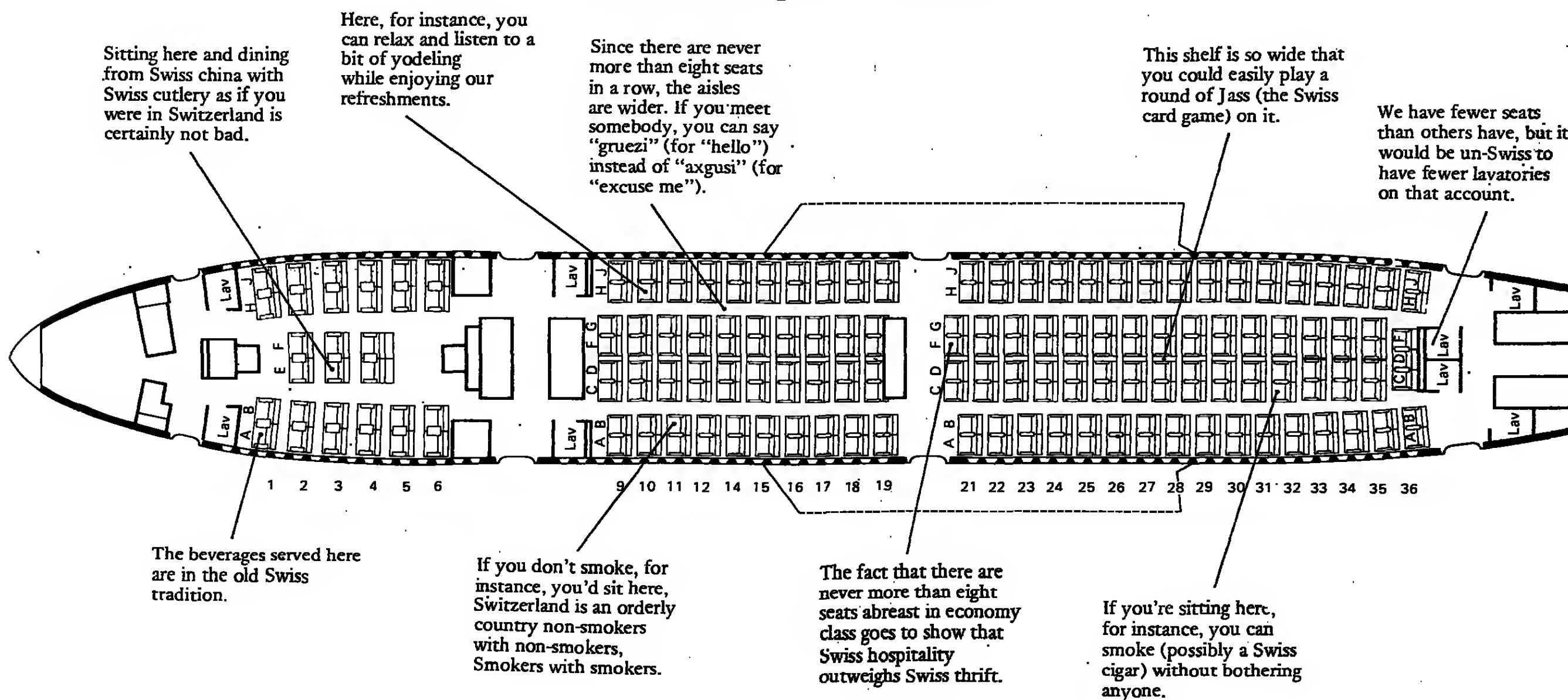
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From our grow your own department

To remove the toil -- forget the soil

By Kathy Land

JEDDAH — Are your potted plants among those ailing because of over watering? If so, do not panic. There's an easy way out, at least for some varieties of plants.

One special way of raising plants, known as hydroculture, may save your dracaenas and other specimens from an early death.

As Andrew Hamilton of Florina has pointed out, around 80 per cent of plant deaths are caused by too much water. Hydroculture, or actually growing the plants in water, ironically enough eliminates the problem. The reason is that soil becomes non-essential as long as a plant receives the essential nutrients—water, light and air. Air is needed for the roots as well as leaves. When a plant in soil is overwatered, the sodden soil stops air from getting through.

Indoor plants particularly suited to this type of culture include pineapples, cissus (kangaroo vine), dieffenbachia, dracaena and its varieties, fatsihedra, ficus varieties, hederia and a number of other plants. Those large impressive plants apparently growing out of pebbles that one often sees in hotel lobbies, are invariably hydroculture specimens.

"For the average Jeddah indoor gardener, there are certain advantages in using the hydroculture method," Hamilton said. "Apart from the fact that hydroculture plants are impossible to overwater, they also appear to grow quite happily in darker surroundings, or need less light than normally grown plants."

Hydroculture requires a special pot and those "pebbles" at the top are actually clay pellets called hydro-korrels. A cross-section of a pot will reveal eight to 10 centimeters of stones, topped by two centimeters of korrels, which apart from looking attractive, allow water to pass across the surface because of their porous nature.

Hydroculture specimens can be bought or ordered already growing. The more adventurous gardeners can experiment and try growing their own. Special hydroculture kits are available to make the experiment a little more simple.

A very simplified explanation of the procedure is that the selected plant is removed from its pot, and the roots are cleaned carefully of all soil. The plant is then placed in a pot of pellets sitting in a saucer of water. The plant, plus pot, is then placed in a plastic bag to prevent undue evaporation. The plastic bag can be disposed later once the plant has struck and acclimated to its new home.

A very important aspect of hydroculture is adequate feeding. Since the plant cannot draw food from the soil, it needs special liquid fertilizers for nutrition. The important ingredients are trace elements that are essential for the plant's well-being.

Hamilton said pre-established hydroculture plants are more expensive than normal specimens because of the additional time and effort involved in getting the plant started. However, they are more than worth the additional cost because of their ease of maintenance.



HELP: Hydroculture kits like the one pictured here provide assistance for gardeners and plant lovers desiring to grow their own.

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am fine, horrible, afraid to look at myself

he morning, flat broke, lost at sea, more

normal than you are.

However, in addition to, Meanwhile, But And, Somehow I have lost my way, Found my way, Earned a promotion, Been fired, Been promoted, But haven't gotten a pay increase, Found the right boy/girl, Found out I have the measles, Found out my best friend has the measles, To borrow \$ 25 until payday.

I certainly hope you are fine. Have moved from the neighborhood. Are still in the neighborhood. Are making enough money to support me when I return.

Love, Best regards, Ma'assalamah, Adios, Aufwiedersehen, Chaw, Tell the family I'm fine. Tell the family I'm not fine.



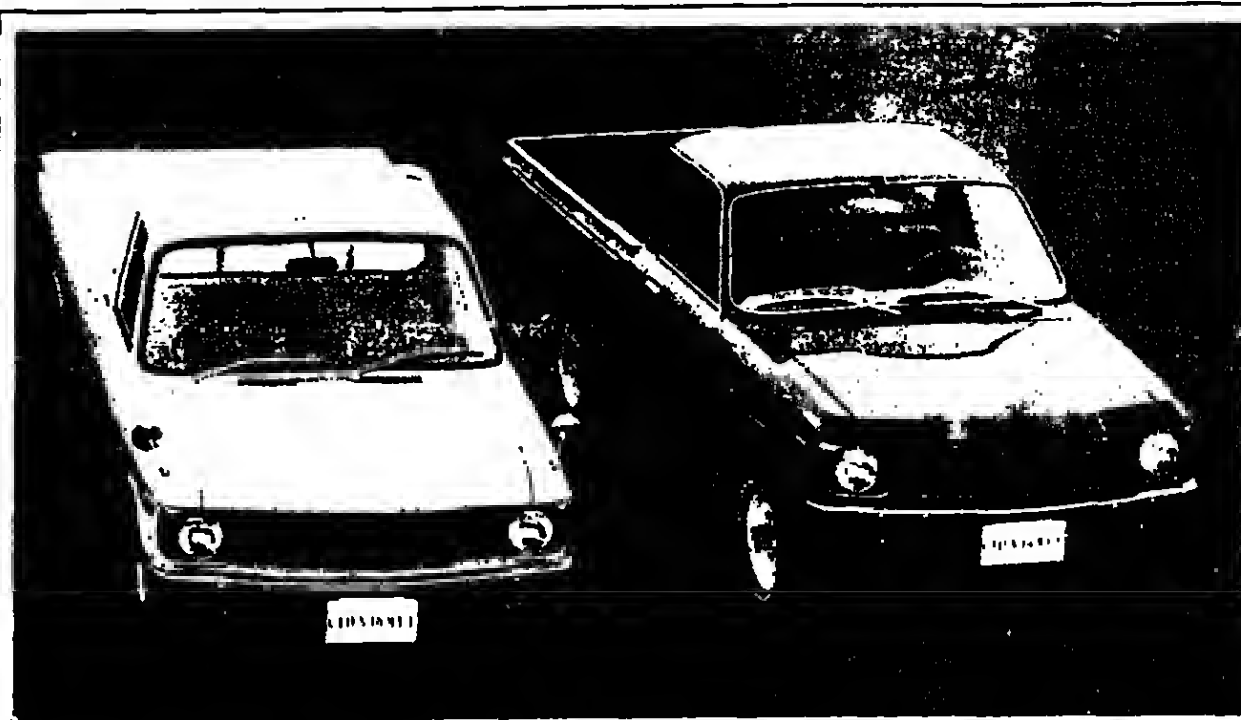
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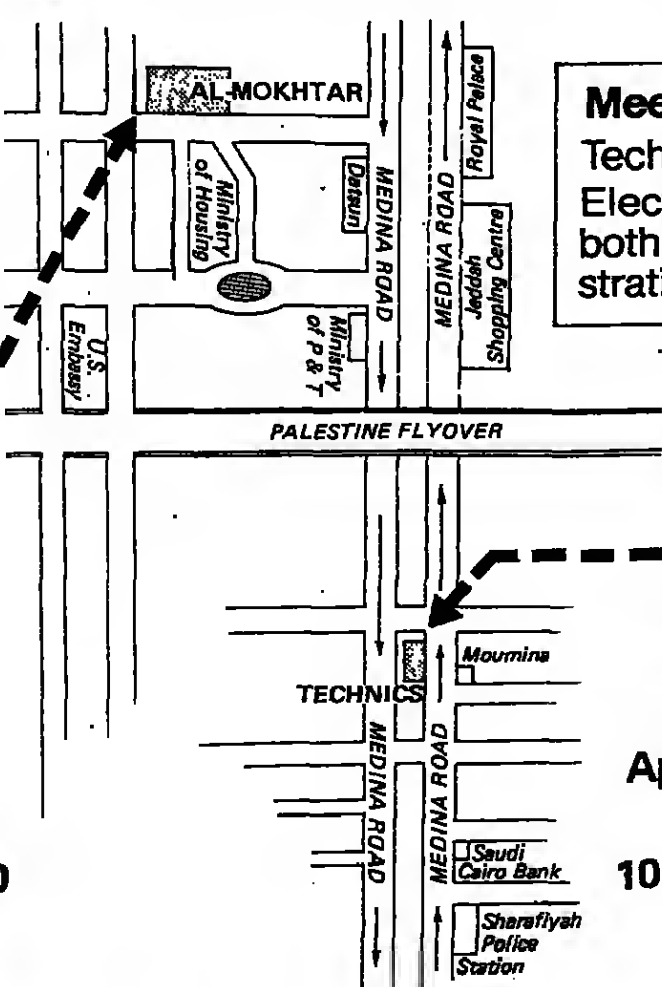


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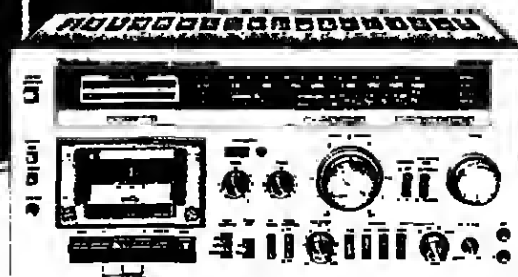
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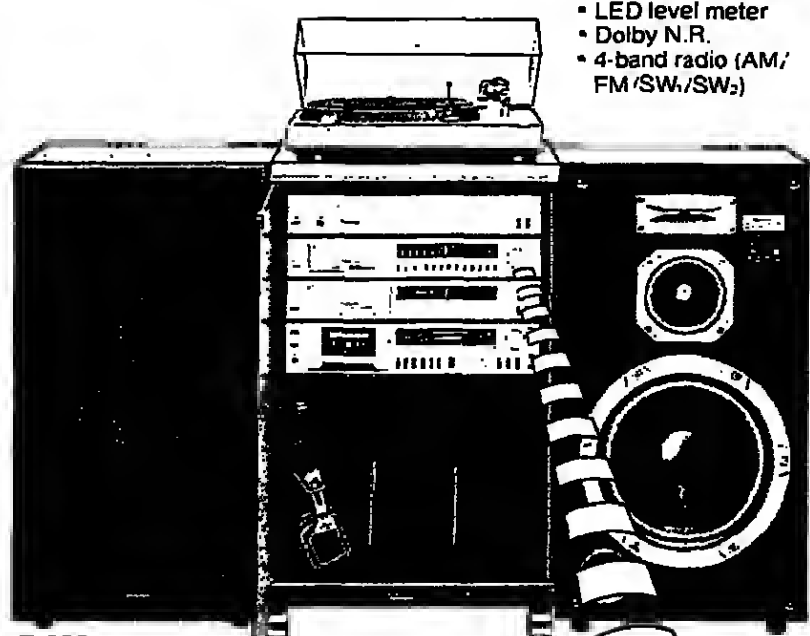


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The odds firmly stacked against Afghan government

By Francois Durieux

NEW DELHI — Afghanistan completes two years under Marxist rule this month with the odds firmly stacked against the new government headed by President Babrak Karmal.

The Afghan president, the third since Marxists took over in April 1978 was put in power in a Soviet-backed coup on Dec. 27 for what is officially described as a new phase of the Saur (April) revolution.

Paradoxically, Karmal's main backer, the Soviet Union, has also proved his regime's worst enemy, depriving it of popular support at home and diplomatic recognition abroad.

In Kabul, where this correspondent spent the last month, the remark is heard, "If only Karmal had come alone," suggesting that for the 50-year-old president may have succeeded where his two predecessors failed.

But, according to Western sources in Kabul, nearly 100,000 Soviet troops are now in the country, and Afghans widely resent their presence.

"That was the only solution," a foreign diplomat quoted a senior Afghan government official as telling him after the massive Soviet airlift started in late December last year.

By that time, a widespread Muslim rebellion was gaining the upper hand, and the Marxist government stood totally discredited as a result of excesses under former President Hafizullah Amin.

It is a widely accepted view among diplomats in Kabul that, without Soviet military intervention not only would Karmal not be in power but Marxist rule might have been swept away altogether by now.

Amin was killed in the December coup, only three months after ousting Afghanistan's first Marxist leader Nur Muhammad Taraki.

The new government, blaming "Amin and Amin's" for everything that has gone wrong since the April revolution, tries to project a reassuring image in an effort to gain confidence of the population — but, by Karmal's own admission, with little result so far.

Asked what had changed since he came to power, the Afghan president recently told journalists: "Three months is nothing."

The government's first but least publicized priority is to regain control of the military situation in the next few months, taking advantage of clear weather in spring and summer to try to bring under control Muslim and other guerrilla groups.

Diplomats in Kabul expect Soviet forces to play an increasingly active part in military operations because there has been no time to rebuild an Afghan army weakened by purges and continuing desertions and largely demoralized.

Friends of Afghan army officers said some cried in humiliation after Soviet troops took command.

Diplomats in Kabul estimated the present strength of the Afghan army at 40,000 including 12-year-olds was launched early last month, and the government later announced a "voluntary call-up" for school-leavers.

Hurried efforts are also being made to beef up the

police force. Diplomatic sources said police officers recently returned from the Soviet Union after four months of training instead of the usual six.

The ill-equipped Muslim rebels are no match for Soviet military might. But as a Soviet diplomat in Kabul told a Western journalist: "We Russians cannot be everywhere."

In Ghazni province alone, southwest of Kabul where the Afghan authorities say a number of "subversive elements and bandits" were wiped out last month, non-Communist diplomatic sources estimated at 10,000 the number of anti-government rebels operating within a 100 kilometers radius of Ghazni city.

The guerrillas are mobile, and some groups claim they have sophisticated arms and only lack men to operate them. Money, medicine and shoes are also in demand according to sympathizers in Kabul.

One rebel group, the United National Front, said heavy machine guns, anti-tank rockets and other weapons were captured from an army barracks at Hussein Kot northwest of Kabul last month. The action, apparently made possible by deserters, was confirmed by independent sources.

In a leaflet circulated in Kabul, the group said guerrillas should not beg arms from the United States, China, Pakistan or Britain but capture them from the enemy.

Diplomats, who are not allowed to travel more than 20 kilometers outside Kabul, find it difficult to assess the military situation in the countryside.

The Afghan authorities are trying to isolate rebel groups from the rest of the population in an attempt to deny guerrillas the support they need to operate.

In the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif and at Herat in the south, government and party officials warned shopkeepers of dire consequences if they went on strike, reminding them of what happened in Kabul last February.

Then, a strike by traders in the Afghan capital against the Soviet military presence was followed by violent demonstrations which ended in bloodshed after clashes with security forces.

With no apparent success, the Afghan authorities are trying to persuade the population that anti-government rebels are not genuine Muslims because disorder and anarchy are alien to Islam.

Karmal and other Afghan leaders begin all their public pronouncements with the words: "In the name of God, the Compassionate and the Merciful." But political analysts in Kabul said more was needed to restore their Muslim credentials in the eyes of Afghans.

"People have not forgotten how in the 1960's Karmal and other Communist leaders went to the hazaar on Fridays and trampled the Koran in public," said a long-time resident of Kabul.

Since they came to power 11 weeks ago, the Afghan authorities have not only carefully avoided offending the religious feelings of Muslims but also made conciliatory gestures toward them.

While voicing their opposition to Marxist rule and Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, a group of mullahs (Muslim religious leaders) told a delegation of foreign lawyers visiting Afghanistan last month that they now enjoyed freedom of religion

after being persecuted and humiliated under the two previous Marxist governments.

Karmal has told journalists that a new national flag incorporating Islamic green would soon stand next to the present red banner which many Muslims equate with godless communism.

The new red, black and green flag, which Karmal said would symbolize Afghanistan's independence and freedom, is expected to make its first formal appearance of the second anniversary of the Saur revolution on April 27.

Also awaited is a draft constitution defining the powers between the revolutionary council and government, both headed by Karmal, setting up an independent judiciary and guaranteeing basic rights and freedoms. Afghanistan has had no constitution since the monarchy was overthrown in 1973.

One of the first decisions taken by the authorities after the December coup was to release political prisoners. The authorities claim that more than 15,000 detainees were freed although no list was ever published.

In Kabul alone, an estimated 10,000 people detained before the coup are believed to be missing, possibly killed during the first two Marxist administrations.

An unknown number of political prisoners are still in prison, jailed by the present government which said they would be provided with defense counsels and that independent observers would be allowed to attend their trials.

The government, now comparing "blood-thirsty Amin" and his "fascist band" to the ousted Pol Pot regime in Kampuchea, is making every effort to show it respects human rights.

There has been no report of torture, an earlier common practice, since the December coup, and the government has had talks with such organizations as the International Red Cross Committee and Amnesty International, the London-based

human rights group.

A general amnesty was declared for "misguided Afghans," as opposed to hard-core rebels. The government later invited Afghan refugees in neighboring Pakistan to return home under international supervision. It also promised to give back to people property illegally seized from them under the previous regime.

Non-party members are being appointed to senior government posts along with hardline officials of the Communist-style People's Democratic Party (PDP), who are themselves bitterly divided between those approving and opposing the Soviet intervention.

The present Afghan leaders are dedicated Marxists, but more pragmatic than their predecessors. They call for reconciliation, advocate a national democratic revolution and say socialism is for later. But opponents continue to leave the country, sometimes with official approval like former members of the royal family, and more often illegally. Passports are expensive — 22,500 Afghani (\$500).

For opponents at home and critics abroad, the main fault with the present government is that Karmal was put in power by Soviet troops.

Western countries do not recognize the new government which they say was imposed on Afghanistan by Moscow. They maintain diplomatic relations with Kabul, but political cooperation is frozen and aid programs are suspended or reduced.

The Islamic conference, which is due to meet again at ministerial level in Islamabad next month, suspended the Afghan government in January and decided to impose a political and economic boycott as long as Soviet troops remained in the country.

Diplomatic efforts to find a political solution to what the Kabul government refers to as the "so-called Afghan issue" have so far failed to bring about a change in the initial Afghan-Soviet stand. — (R)

MARKING TIME

The meetings just ended in Washington between President Carter and Menachem Begin as well as those between Carter and Sadat which preceded them, showed clearly the impasse the Camp David side finds itself in, as well as its insistence to soldier on no matter how hopeless the effort may seem.

Begin went to Washington without any concessions in his mind. And Carter was in no position to exert any pressure on him to yield on any point of substance. They agreed, as Sadat also agreed when he was in Washington, that the talks on Palestinian autonomy must go on — although, as everyone knows, there is nothing between Egypt and Israel to discuss, given the declared position of each.

This paralysis suits both Begin and Carter very well. The former is enabled through it to continue with the efforts to absorb the occupied territories, and the latter because, in this election year, nothing would harm his chances for reelection more than an official admission of the failure of the Camp David process. Sadat is also offered something. The possibility of Begin accepting that the Palestinian autonomy project should be applied to the Gaza Strip, leaving the question of its application to the West Bank till later, offers Sadat a welcome breathing space, at a time when internal tensions in Egypt are reaching the point of danger, while the external pressures from the Arab and Islamic states opposed to the Camp David approach continue to mount.

Marking time, or continuing with the pretense of the "talks," is the only strategy the Camp David side has to offer. The only other alternative is to admit defeat and cast about for a new formula. And that is precisely what Israel does not want, since it is bound to involve real concessions (if yielding back illegally occupied territory can be called that.)

Sadat and Begin, it was reported, have both pressed Carter not to make any new moves on the question of the Middle East. The situation there, according to them, is particularly fluid at the moment, and some drastic changes are in the offing — changes which will favor the Camp David approach. It would be folly for him to listen to such counsel, since it is precisely the Camp David approach which is causing the area's unrest.

DANGEROUS STEP

The economic sanctions imposed on Iran by President Carter are only the first step on a very dangerous road. The next step is a naval blockade, and the third, catastrophically, is military action, however limited. Few would want to see this process unfold to its end. Most would like to see Iran (and then, inevitably, the area and then, equally inevitably, world stability) spared such dire jeopardy.

The Iranians for their part seem to count on the difficulties facing any naval blockade — its effect, they argue, would deny the world of Iranian oil. But experts believe the world has enough oil stored to last a long time — certainly beyond the few weeks of interruption entailed by any American action. They add that Iranian production has for a while now been static at around 1.5 million barrels per day, an amount which can be obtained from other sources if need be.

This means that Iran would suffer badly; and that, ultimately, it would be judged to have engineered the cause of its suffering. Some of the country's leaders, it is clear, and here President Bani-Sadr himself comes to mind, realize this, and have sought to resolve the problem of hostages before it could harm the country. But they have been powerless, owing to the "unofficial government" which is really in control — at least where it touches the question of the relations to the United States.

The moderate side represented by Bani-Sadr can only hope that governments whose friendliness to Iran is beyond question will use their good offices to persuade the militant elements that nothing but harm can come to Iran from any future conflict. The priority of the leadership should be the economic and political ills from which the country is suffering. It is certainly not in maintaining artificial crises with the United States or with neighboring countries.

17,000 want to flee Timor

By Jimmy Burns

LISBON — The International Red Cross has collected a list of 17,000 men, women, and children who want to leave the troubled former Portuguese colony of East Timor, according to foreign ministry officials in Lisbon.

Reports that such a list existed have been circulated in the Portuguese capital for several weeks but official confirmation has added a new and significant element to one of the most pressing human rights issues since Cambodia.

Ever since the Indonesian invasion of Timor in 1975, the authorities have been reluctant to allow Timorese out freely for fear of a mass exodus and the damaging results this would have on world opinion. Most of the 2,000 Timorese who have arrived in Lisbon since 1975 claim they have hated their way out.

The exception was the family reunion scheme organized by the Australian government, which led to Indonesia allowing 100 Timorese to leave in 1978. Since then the Indonesian government has indicated its willingness to repatriate only 200 Portuguese-born Timorese.

It appears that Timor will not even begin to consider the list of 17,000 unless it can manage to wrestle considerable diplomatic concessions in return.

Portugal has never recognized Indonesia's invasion of Timor as a *fait accompli* but rather as the brutal interruption of a series of delicate independence negotiations.

The Portuguese constitution, ratified in 1976, commits Portugal's president, the Council of the Revolution and the government to "promote and safeguard the right to independent East Timor."

Portugal broke off formal diplomatic ties with Indonesia after the invasion and resorted to a series of protests at the United Nations.

Government officials, facing Portugal's biggest refugee problem since the decolonization of Africa four years ago, now admit privately to the need for a more pragmatic approach to the question of Timor.

U.N. condemnations have had little effect and violation of human rights and mass starvation have continued in Timor.

Evidence of torture and summary executions is being compiled by Amnesty International, while relief agencies on the island have publicly acknowledged that more than 240,000 Timorese are currently being treated for malnutrition. An estimated 200,000 out of Timor's total population of 600,000 are believed to have died since 1975.

A formal diplomatic request from Portugal for safe passage for the 17,000 Timorese would be interpreted by Indonesia as a *de facto* recognition of Indonesian sovereignty in Timor. — (OFNS)

saudi press review

The weekend newspapers led with the screening of the *Death of a Princess* by a television station in the Netherlands they reported that the Zionist lobby stood in the way of Saudi Arabia's ambassador to the Hague and that the Dutch Cathedral Council protested against screening the film.

In a lead story, *Al Medina* reported that the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France, has rejected protest moves in favor of freedom for the media.

Al Yom led with Interior Minister Prince Naif's statement that the Kingdom is facing malicious campaigns as a result of its strict attachment to Islam and its laws.

Okaz played as its lead the reported failure of talks between President Carter and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin in Washington.

Newspapers frontpaged Information Minister Muhammad Abdo Yamani's statement about a possible summit meeting of Arab Gulf states. He also was quoted as saying that Saudi Arabia does not believe in the policy of alignment pacts and would do everything possible for the realization of Arab unity.

In a front-page story, *Al Jazirah* reported a Palestinian denial in Rabat of the Palestine Liberation Organization's recognition of the Sahara Republic.

Newspapers also highlighted the PLO's reaffirmation that its rift with Libya still is continuing, and they gave prominence to a Syrian-Algerian accord for supporting the Polisario Liberation Front.

Al Yom reported on its front page that more than 1,000 residential units are being built for

commissioned and non-commissioned officers at the king Abdul Aziz Naval Base in Jubail.

Newspaper editorials continued to denounce the hectic media campaigns against Saudi Arabia in the West and stressed the need for confronting the slanders against Islam and Muslims.

The editorials were unanimous in their comment that world Zionism is active behind the malicious campaigns.

In an editorial Thursday, *Al Jazirah* said Saudi Arabia is the target of the Western media's tirade for its outstanding position among the Islamic states and at the international level. It added that the Kingdom not only is capable of absorbing such attacks but also is in a firm position to give a deterrent blow to the centers of such attacks.

Okaz stressed the need for a collective action against the hostile forces in the West. Referring to the moral degradation in the Western society, the paper said that the Western media has only demonstrated its rancor against Islam. It reaffirmed that there is a pressing need to react against their ferocious campaigns against the Islamic faith.

Al Yom said in an editorial that the *Death of a Princess* has injured the feelings of the Muslims throughout the world. It added that Britain has proved its scorn for everything that is close to Islam, and it urged Muslims to take deterrent measures against such blatant slanders.

Al Jazirah held the view that the film will not harm Islam or Muslims as much as it will jeopardize the interests of the West itself. The

paper urged a quick move against Britain and the Netherlands so as to provide a lesson to other countries that plan to show the film.

In its Friday issue, *Al Jazirah* said editorially that the campaign is being directed against the Kingdom because it is not only the champion of the Islamic faith but also is economically strong and can wield its political weight on the international events.

The paper added that the film is part of a well-studied and strategic war on the Muslim faith. It said Saudi Arabia's successful enforcement of the Islamic law has aggravated the hatred of the West against the Kingdom, Islam and Muslims.

Okaz reiterated in an editorial Friday that the Kingdom will continue to be in the vanguard in defense of the Islamic faith and will confront every attempt to distort the faith. While the Kingdom's correct application of the Islamic law has earned respect at the local and international levels, the enemies of Islam, mainly world Zionism, have made hectic efforts to smear Saudi Arabia and the sublime faith. The paper reiterated that the campaigns will fail as "we are fortified with our faith to confront any crusading campaigns."

The weekly magazine *Al Yamama* said in its latest issue that the method of confrontation with Western media attacks should be stronger than the Western campaign, in view of the West's blatant disregard of our friendship, which we have all along striven to maintain and preserve. It said our weak presence in the West has opened the avenues before "the dwarfs to attack and to infringe our freedom, dignity and faith."

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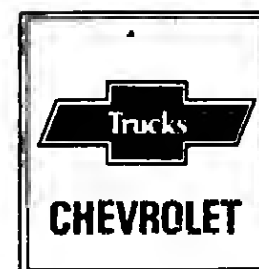
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Castro authorizes ten refugee flights

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica, April 18 (AP) — Cuban President Fidel Castro's government authorized 10 refugee flights from Havana to Costa Rica over the next five days, but Costa Rica hopes to double the number to speed the evacuation of nearly 10,000 dissident Cubans from the Peruvian embassy in Havana, a foreign ministry official said.

The official, Carlos Aguilar, said only one plane, a DC-8, left San Jose for Havana, Thursday night and that it would likely be the only one returning to San Jose Friday. He said the Cubans have agreed to two flights daily through Tuesday and he hoped they would raise the number to four.

He said another Costa Rican airliner flew to Lima, Peru, Thursday night carrying 97 refugees, part of the 1,000 Peru agreed to take. The United States has agreed to take 3,500 and Costa Rica 100.

Aguilar said 50 other Cubans left Havana on a scheduled Iberia Airlines flight directly for Spain on Thursday and that it was possible the Spanish government would send a chartered plane to Havana Friday to pick up 250 more. Brazil also offered Thursday to take an unspecified number of refugees.

The Cubans jammed the eight hectare Peruvian embassy compound in Havana two weeks ago, Costa Rica agreed to be the staging point for the evacuation, which began Wednesday with a flight of 250 Cubans and continued Thursday with 254 more.

Some of those arriving in San Jose said supporters of Castro insulted them and took their personal belongings before allowing them to board their "freedom flight" from Havana's Jose Marti airport.

They took away all our suitcases. They even took away our wristwatches. This is not just 10,000 people in the Peruvian embassy, but all the Cuban people angry at Castro," said one of the refugees, 30-year-old Gilberto Puig.

Carlos Dominguez, a 37-year-old accountant, said more than 40,000 people would have gone into the Peruvian embassy in Havana if police had not cordoned off the area. "People have lost their fear of Castro," he said.

Other refugees said increasing economic hardship and visits to relatives and friends living in the United States spread dissatisfaction with Castro's Communist rule.

Some 9,500 Cubans still await flights out of Havana, and the Cuban government said Thursday more than 8,000 have received their safe conduct passes and passports.

However, it angrily denied a statement made Wednesday by Peru's foreign minister, Arturo Garcia Y. Gana, that only 4,400 had their documents, and claimed Peru had not granted visas to Cubans inside the embassy who want to travel to Peru.

The Cuban Foreign Ministry said it "refutes with all its energy the mendacious assertions" of Garcia. "He manifested, in declarations made in Lima, that the Cuban government had suspended the granting of documents to persons inside the Peruvian embassy in Havana. At no time has the expedition of passports been suspended to persons who have left the embassy and have solicited them."

However, the Peruvian Foreign Ministry condemned what it called "offensive references to the Peruvian foreign minister" and repeated its accusation that Cuba had announced by loudspeaker on April 15 that it would limit safe conduct passes to women and children in the Peruvian embassy in Havana.

The Peruvian Foreign Ministry also denied the charge that it had not granted visas to the Cubans.

The ministry said a list of 500 persons who had been given visas was presented to the Cuban Foreign Ministry on April 13.



BAKED DRY: Fred and Iris Sutton of Bealiba, Australia, view the baked bottom of the local reservoir. The town, 160 kilometers north of Melbourne, is running short of water as a long drought continues.

Tito's health gets worse, doctors say

BELGRADE, April 18 (AP) — Doctors treating President Josip Broz Tito of Yugoslavia said Friday the condition of the country's 87-year-old leader was getting worse and that "irreversible measures" were being taken to keep him alive.

In its daily advisory, the team of eight doctors treating Tito said stomach bleeding had again broken out and that his liver condition was deteriorating.

The bulletin, one of the strongest worded so far, came as the former partisan hero was approaching his 100th day of hospitalization at the Ljubljana Clinical Center where he has been fighting for his life since amputation of his left leg Jan. 20.

Friday was Tito's 98th straight day in the clinic. No mention of his mental state has been issued since Feb. 20 when he was said to be feeling better.

The medical bulletin, the only official source of information on the president's health, said doctors had failed to get the stomach bleeding under complete control.

Money chiefs to steer cash to poor countries

PARIS, April 18 (AP) — Top managers of the world economy will be meeting in Hamburg next week to discuss ways to ensure world monetary stability and improved financial relations between rich and poor countries.

A key issue will be recycling of the surpluses of oil-producing countries, expected to reach some \$100,000 to \$120,000 million this year because of a 130 per cent rise in crude oil prices since the beginning of 1979. This is among the most crucial questions marking the world monetary scene at present, international experts say.

The Hamburg talks will get underway next Monday when top officials of developing countries in the "Group of 25" meet to compare notes on this and other issues, including the proposed creation of a "substitution account" by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The talks will wind up next Friday with a meeting of finance ministers of leading Western and Third World countries in the IMF's 21-member interim committee where both sides will confront their views on the world economic and monetary situation. This will be preceded by a ministerial session of the joint IMF and World Bank development committee next Thursday, mainly on ways of increasing the flows of finance to the Third World.

Experts said the recycling of the petrodollar surpluses dominate the talks because the sharp rise in oil prices is expected to generate large deficits in oil-importing countries. They may reach \$70,000 million for the industrialized countries as a group and perhaps as much as \$0,000 million for non-oil producing developing countries, according to some estimates.

The international banking system played a key role in piping such surpluses back into the financial circuits in the wake of the 1973-74

crisis, by lending to deficit countries.

Many experts now fear that private banks may be reluctant to play the same role at present, partly because of the high level of indebtedness of many developing countries. Banks may also want to adopt a cautious lending policy against the background of a looming world-wide economic slowdown.

The recycling problem is not likely to arise this year, but could become acute in 1981, according to some experts.

The proposed IMF substitution account would enable central banks to deposit unwanted dollars — or other currencies — with the IMF in exchange for interest-bearing Special Drawing Rights (SDR) certificates.

The creation of such an instrument was agreed in principle at the IMF annual meeting in Belgrade last October. It would help mop up some of the huge overhang of several hundred thousand million dollars now invested on the international markets, and thus steady the monetary system.

According to experts, substantial progress has been made on technical issues, but there are still major problems which require "political" decision before the device can be finalized. These include the rate of interest to be paid by the United States for dollar balances consolidated through this facility. IMF members also have to decide on the rate to be served on SDR certificates in order to make deposits attractive to central banks. And there is still no agreement on how exchange risks should be covered.

According to some sources, the dollar's recent sharp rise on the foreign exchanges and skyrocketing U.S. interest rates have greatly complicated these issues. Moreover, developing nations still do not appear convinced that the new facility would serve their interests. The stance adopted by oil-producing countries could be decisive, according to experts.

Alleged attacker attacked with knife

NEW DELHI, April 18 (R) — A man held on charges of trying to kill Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was attacked with a knife and slightly hurt Friday at a hospital in Baroda where he is being treated for jaundice.

Textile worker Ram Lalwani, 37, was

stabbed in the chest by another patient who was quickly overpowered by police and staff at the hospital in the Western Indian city.

Medical Superintendent Dr. B.B. Mathur said Lalwani was lying handcuffed on an examination table when he was attacked. He suffered a cut.

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مكتبة الأصم

At Pago Pago celebration 30,000 witness plane's fiery crash

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa, April 18 (AP) — Nine persons were killed and one was badly burned when a U.S. navy plane dropping parachutists into a crowd of 30,000 snagged the cables of an aerial tramway, crashed on the Pago Pago waterfront and set fire to the hotel that was the setting for the play and movie *Rain*.

The dead included all six crewmen of the plane, the navy said in Honolulu. Local officials said the other three dead apparently were civilians, and at least one appeared to be a white male. But the identities were withheld Thursday.

One civilian, a male Japanese tourist, was critically burned. He and the nine bodies were flown to Tripler Air Force Base in Honolulu.

The plane, a four-engine P-3 Orion turbo-prop, was based at the naval air station at Moffett Field, in Honolulu. It was taking part in a two-day Flag Day celebration in the capital of American Samoa, a U.S. territory in the south Pacific.

Its exploding fuel tanks set fire to one wing of the 250-room Rainmaker Hotel, American Samoa's only large hotel. The flames gutted 70 or 75 rooms in the old part of the hotel where Somerset Maugham stayed before he wrote the short story about Sadie Thompson and the Rev. Davidson on which the play and movie were based.

However, an eyewitness said the hotel was almost empty because everyone was in the town's main square for the celebration.

The eyewitness, who asked not to be identified, said the plane had just dropped the six members of a U.S. army parachute team over the square shortly after 10 a.m. when three of the jumpers were blown off their target. The plane turned, apparently to follow their descent, but snagged on a cable of the tramway that crosses the bay, the witness reported.

It narrowly missed the main square, which was jammed with an estimated 30,000 natives and tourists, and crashed just outside the hotel, spraying the old wing of the building with burning fuel.

It was chaos, the witness continued. "Thousands ran toward the scene of the crash, then ran the other way when the plane's fuel tanks exploded."

"All you could hear were shouts of 'melae,' 'melae,' danger, danger."

Colombia to study charges it tortured guerrilla prisoners

BOGOTA, April 18 (AP) — The controversy over human rights violations in Colombia has swept to prominence as an urban guerrilla group continued to hold 13 diplomats hostage.

Neither guerrillas nor the government announced a bargaining session for Thursday.

Sources said the occupation of the Dominican Republic embassy could go on possibly until after an Organization of American States human rights commission due to arrive Sunday completes its work.

A 44 page report on alleged rights violations in Colombia prepared by London-based Amnesty International was denounced by Colombia's government this week. President Julio Cesar Turbay called a meeting of his cabinet and top military commander for Friday to prepare a reply to charges of torture

and other abuses.

Amnesty International, which sent an investigative team here last February, urged the government to suspend a state of siege that has existed here almost continuously for the past 30 years.

The report alleged that at least eight cases of military torture of guerrilla prisoners were proven and that interrogators regularly employed some 50 different types of torture.

Colombia's chief prosecutor, Guillermo Gonzalez, said the report was superficial and did not take evidence from officials into account.

The furor has apparently helped prolong the captivity of 13 ambassadors, five consuls and two Colombians held by guerrillas of the April 19th movement (M-19) at the Dominican Republic embassy.



President Turbay

Eight executives sentenced in Taiwan sedition case

TAIPEI, April 18 (AP) — The eighth top executives of the defunct political magazine *Formosa* were sentenced to terms ranging from 12 years to life in prison, the Taiwan garrison command announced Friday.

Led by legislator Huang Hsin-Chieh, the eight Taiwanese dissidents were charged with sedition or plotting the violent overthrow of the Nationalist Chinese government in Taiwan during a riot in the southern city of Kaohsiung last December in which 183 police and soldiers were injured.

The defendants were tried before a five-judge panel military court martial in March. None of the dissidents confessed that he plotted to topple the government by force.

A garrison command spokesman said that Shih Ming-teh, one of the key figures in the

sedition case, was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Huang, whose immunity as a parliamentarian was revoked after his arrest, was sentenced to 14 years in jail, while six other received 12-year sentences. The six included Yao Chia-Wen, Lin Yi-Hsiang, Chang Chun-Hung, Lin Hsueh-Hsuan, Miss Wu Hsiu-Lien and Miss Chen Chu.

Earlier the first civilian court questioned a group of Taiwanese dissidents involved in last December's anti-government demonstration in Kaohsiung ended a three-day hearing Friday.

More than 20 Taiwanese had been questioned Wednesday and Thursday in connection with the same incident. Security forces

had at the time seized 152 dissidents including eight persons who were tried by a military tribunal last month on charges of sedition and plotting violent overthrow of the Taiwan government.

The nine-day trial of the eight dissidents was the most open in Taiwan's history, in terms of publicly airing the defendants' views on such previously subjects as Taiwan independence.

By Western standards, however, there were several major omissions — the most important being the decision of the presiding judge not to call any defense witnesses or prosecution witnesses. The entire court martial centered on questioning of the eight dissidents by the presiding judge and defense attorneys.

Rightists bomb Communist school in Rome

ROME, April 18 (AP) — A powerful bomb exploded overnight in the office of a Communist party educational institute in the suburb of Primavalle north of Rome, police reported Friday.

The right-wing Armed Revolutionary Nuclei (NAR) claimed responsibility for the bombing in a telephone call to the Italian news agency ANSA. It marked the third night in a row that offices linked to the Communist

party have been attacked in or around Rome. NAR has claimed responsibility for several of the previous attacks.

Police said the Gramsci Institute was entered through a second-floor window and the bomb was placed on the second floor.

It broke all the windows in the building, caused several ceilings to collapse and damaged walls, police said. NAR was painted on

several walls.

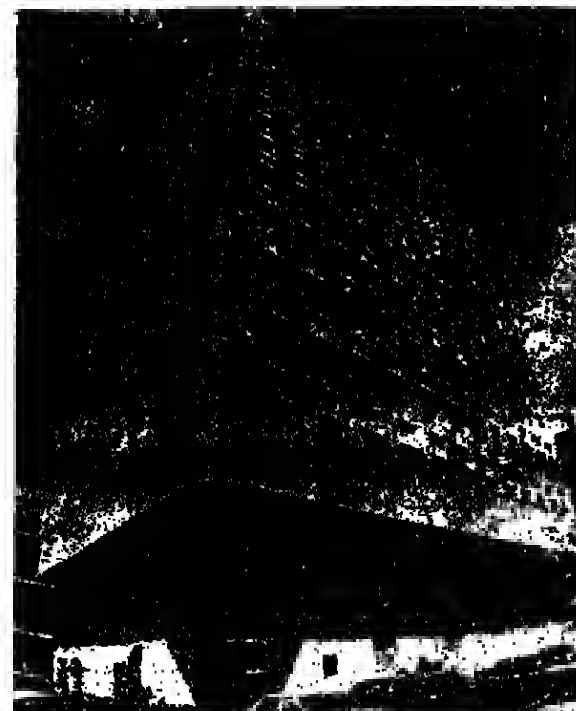
Bombings have been frequent throughout Italy this year. The leftist Red Brigades have claimed credit for a large number of them.

Other groups also inspired by Communist teaching have detonated bombs in Italian cities in a continuing campaign against what they believe are injustices caused by the capitalist system.



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Financing completed for Algeria-Italy gas

PARIS, April 18 (AP) — A \$100-million credit line has been signed in Paris to complete financing of the Mediterranean section of the Algeria-Italy gas pipeline project, and gas should begin flowing in Italy by the end of next year, officials said.

A syndicate of international banks, led by Credit Lyonnais and Bank of America International Ltd., Thursday provided the funds for the Transmediterranean Pipeline Co. Ltd., which is carrying out the work.

The overall cost of the pipeline, which will transport gas from Algeria's Hassi R'mel field to Italy via Tunisia, is currently estimated at more than \$4 billion. Credit Lyonnais officials said.

Sonatrach, the Algerian national oil and gas company, will put up \$1.4 billion of the total. Tunisia will provide \$533 million. The Transmediterranean Pipeline Co., \$532 million and Italy will contribute about \$1.6 billion, mostly in the form of export credits. A Transmediterranean official said \$100

million loan signed Thursday for the Mediterranean section is in addition to two other credits — one of \$100 million from Sonatrach and export credits amounting to \$300 million from the Italian government.

The pipeline company is owned jointly by Sonatrach and SNAM SPA of Italy.

Laying of the three 20-inch lines which will cross the Mediterranean should be completed within schedule by the end of April. The work is being carried out by Saipem, a subsidiary of Italy's state-owned petroleum group ENI.

The 1,070-kilometer pipeline will consist of a 550-kilometer Algerian section owned by Sonatrach, a 360 kilometer section owned by the Tunisian government and the 160-kilometer Mediterranean section owned by Transmediterranean.

Though gas is expected to begin flowing through the first pipeline by the end of next year, deliveries to Italy will not reach their full rate of 12.36 billion cubic meters annually until 1985.

\$3b Arab reinsurance firm to undercut W. underwriters

KUWAIT, April 18 (AP) — Four Arab states plan to launch a three billion dollar reinsurance company designed to undercut Western underwriters, accused by the Gulf states of playing havoc with insurance charges pertaining to the area, Kuwait Finance Ministry officials revealed.

The Arab Reinsurance Syndicate, to be based in Bahrain, is to be financed by Kuwait, Libya, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar, the officials told the Associated Press. The agreement setting up the company is to be signed in Manama on Saturday.

The Kuwait Finance Minister Abdul Rahman al-Nasir, currently in Qatar, will be proceeding to Bahrain to sign the agreement on Kuwait's behalf. Atiq was described by the officials as chief sponsor of the venture.

The syndicate heralds an era of giant, pan-Arab financial institutions aimed at absorbing the Arab's oil revenues instead of recycling them to what is considered uncertain Western financial markets, the officials said.

The decision of the Lloyds Underwriters last summer to impose a war risk premium on ships sailing in the Gulf caused an outcry from Arab states of the Gulf.

Arab Gulf states decided to form a reinsurance syndicate that would compete with Lloyds and other Western underwriters.

Economists and businessmen here believe that an Arab company, financed by governments, would be able to undercut Western underwriters. At the same time, the Arab company would be able to absorb losses, which would be made up by member states.

Arab food imports total \$7b

DOHA, April 18 (AFP) — Arab world imports of "food products" total \$7 billion every year, Qatar's minister of finance and industry, Hamdan Bin Rashed told the annual meeting of Arab financial organizations, which ended here Wednesday.

In studying the activities of the development funds the Arab finance ministers paid particular attention to investments earmarked for agriculture this year.

Rashed said that farm production decreased considerably in the Arab world from 1978 onwards, causing excessive expenditure abroad.

"The agricultural sector," he said, provides jobs for more than 60 per cent of the active population and its income accounts for only 9 per cent of Arab world's total income.

The Gulf news agencies said the Arab finance ministers recommended that agricultural investments should be encouraged mainly in Sudan, where several companies were due to expand fruit growing and livestock breeding on a vast scale.

The agencies added that a credit of \$145 million had been granted to those companies, which produce annually 7,000,000 chickens and 45,000,000 eggs.

Japan announces \$2.45b trade gap

TOKYO, April 18 (R) — Japan's world trade balance turned into a record deficit of \$2.45 billion in the financial year which ended last month following higher oil prices, it was announced here Friday.

The finance ministry also said that Japan's current account balance produced a record deficit of \$13.91 billion in fiscal 1979, while the overall balance of payments slumped to a record deficit of 18.96 billion. The figures compared with a massive visible trade surplus of \$20.53 billion in fiscal 1978, as well as an 11.85 billion current account surplus and a balance of payments deficit of 2.30 billion that year.

Carter: U.S. economy 'enters' recession

WASHINGTON, April 18 (AP) — President Jimmy Carter has said the nation's economy "probably has entered a period of recession" that will cause "pain and... disruptions" for many Americans. But Carter Thursday said he believes that is the price for restraining inflation and predicted the downturn will be short and mild.

It was the first time the president has acknowledged a recession apparently is at hand, although predictions by his own economic forecasters recently have been bolstered by layoffs in the auto industry and a sharp decline in homebuilding. Carter indicated he agreed with other government officials, who say the downturn probably started in late March or early April.

"Recent economic statistics suggest our economy has slowed down and probably entered a period of recession," Carter said at his news conference, adding quickly, "I believe any recession will be mild and short." He also predicted there will be "a substantial reduction in the rate of inflation in the next few months."

By encouraging high interest rates and slowing government spending, the administration has been actively trying to encourage a recession, in the view of most economists. The administration says slower economic growth is necessary to curb inflation.

Carter said the rate of inflation could decline from the current 18 per cent annual rate to about 10 per cent within a few months, if oil prices do not surge again and if the cost of the home mortgages declines by just 2 percentage points to 14 per cent.

A decline in the inflation would help ease the high interest rates, he said. "I have a very good feeling about the future this year, about controlling inflation and reducing interest rates," the president said.

Referring to the recession, Carter said, "I know the pain and I know the disruptions... that lie below cold statistics." But he added, "I also know we cannot substantially reduce interest rate and cannot make jobs secure until we get the inflation rate down."

The administration is predicting a decline in economic output of 1.4 per cent this year with unemployment rising to 7.2 per cent, up from the current 6.2 per cent. However, a top government official has said he thinks the downturn will be more severe, with a decline

in the gross national product of about 1.5 per cent and a rise in joblessness to 8 per cent. Carter said the government is taking steps to help those who are being hurt most severely by high interest rates. Several measures to provide assistance to hard-hit groups were announced earlier in the day.

While the help likely will be welcomed, it probably will not completely satisfy these groups, which say higher interest rates are threatening their economic livelihood.

The government acted in these areas Thursday:

— The Federal Reserve Board said it will make between 1 billion to \$2 billion available to banks to lend to small businesses and farmers at lower interest rates.

— The Department of Housing and Urban Development announced it will help builders obtain loans on unsold house and extend subsidies for low-income buyers at a cost of about \$160 million.

There were these other economic developments Thursday:

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Pound Sterling	7.44	7.38	7.35
Deutsche Mark (100)	180.00	177.00	176.60
Swiss F (100)	193.00	191.00	189.30
French F (100)	77.00	77.25	76.45
Italian Lira (10,000)	38.00	38.00	38.20
Lebanese Lira (100)	98.00	98.00	97.25
Syrian Lira (100)	77.50	77.50	87.00
Egyptian Pound	4.23	4.40	4.40
Kuwaiti Dinar	12.18	12.08	12.08
Jordanian Dinar	10.94	10.90	10.90
Emirates Dirham (100)	89.50	89.50	89.50
Qatari Riyal (100)	91.00	91.00	91.00
Bahraini Dinar	8.86	8.86	8.86
Iranian Riyal (100)	—	—	—
Iraqi Dinar (100)	—	—	—
Yemeni Riyal (100)	73.75	73.25	73.25
Moroccan Dirham (100)	82.00	82.25	82.25
Indian Rupee (100)	—	41.30	41.30
Pakistani Rupee (100)	—	33.90	33.90
Turkish Lira (100)	45.45	—	—
Gold kg.	56,000.00	—	—
10 Tulas bar	6,550.00	—	—
Silver kg.	—	—	—
Japanese Yen (1,000)	13.35	—	13.60
Canadian Dollar	2.81	—	—
Belgian Franc (1,000)	112.00	—	—
Dutch Guilder (1,000)	164.00	—	162.00
Spanish Peseta	50.00	48.00	—
Greek Drachma (1,000)	82.00	—	45.00
Philippines Peso (1,000)	—	—	1.50
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RABENFELS	ROA-41	CONTAINERS	2/5/80	3/5/80
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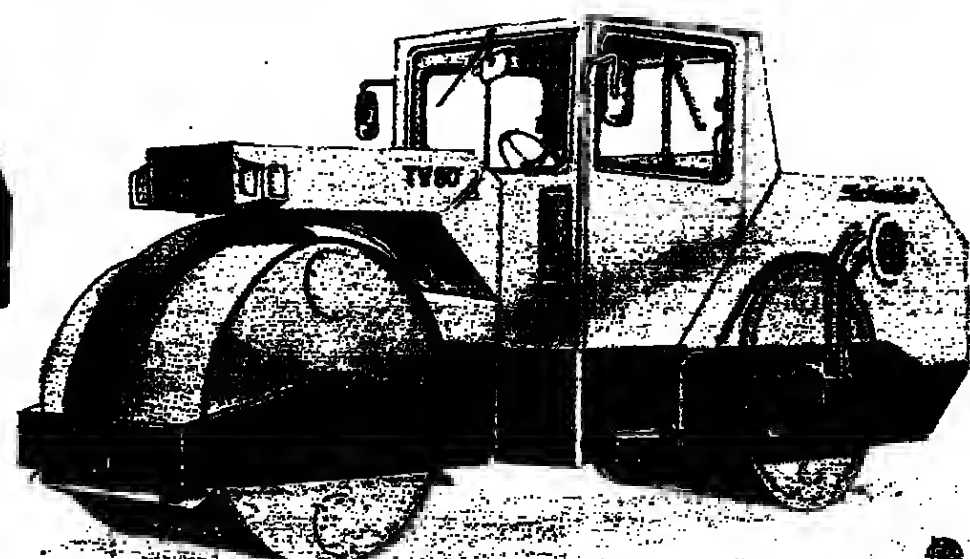
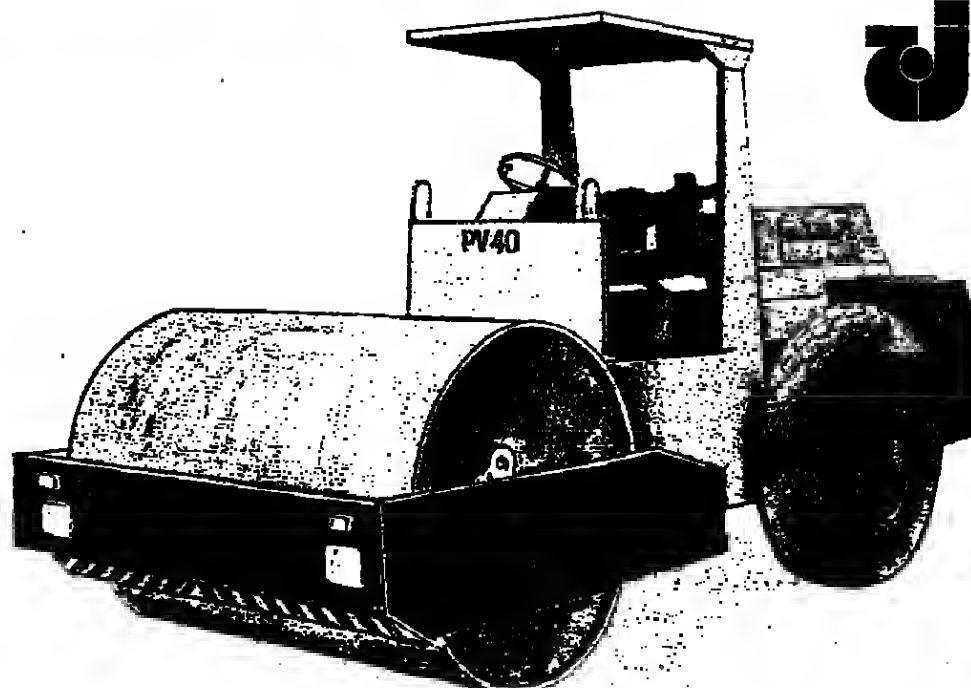
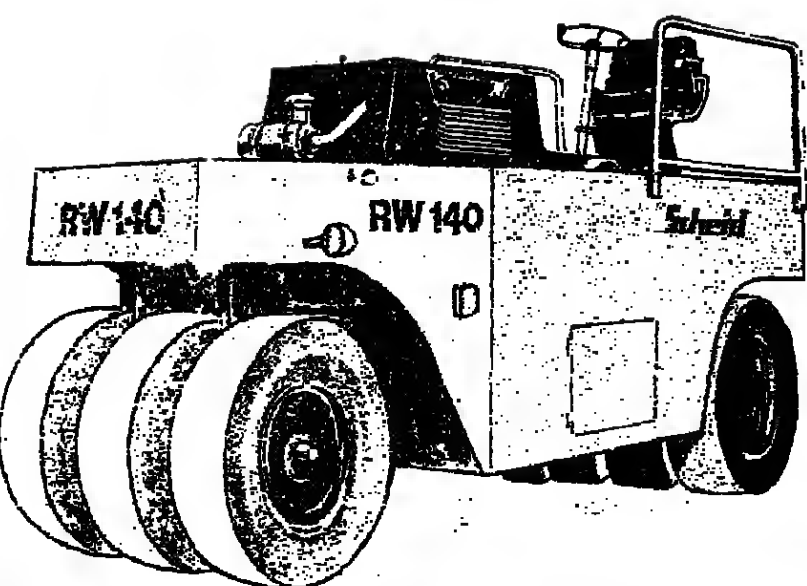
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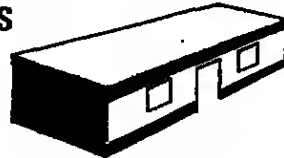
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\$11.7 million in prize money

Fight with Holmes to net Ali \$8m

LOS ANGELES, April 18 (R) — Muhammad Ali will receive \$8 million for his title fight against World Boxing Council (WBC) heavyweight champion Larry Holmes in Rio de Janeiro July 11 co-promoter Murad Muhammad said.

Holmes will receive \$3.7 million, he added.

Ali, 38, retired from boxing after he beat Leon Spinks Sept. 15, 1978, and became the first man to win the World Heavyweight Championship three times. He said Thursday

that he would be in good physical shape to fight Holmes, 31.

Holmes said Thursday in Easton, Penn., that he would sign a contract for the fight when he received an advance payment of \$100,000.

"I'm going to eat Holmes up," Ali declared at a press conference hastily called here. "I call him the peanut, because he's got a peanut-shaped head."

"I'm going to beat him and whip him right

to President Carter," — a reference to the fact that President Carter is a peanut farmer.

Ali had been expected to fight Mike Weaver, who beat John Tate on a 15th-round knockout to win the World Boxing Association title March 31. But promoter Murad Muhammad said Bob Arum, another promoter, made a series of 11th-hour demands on behalf of Weaver which made the fight impossible.

"Bob Arum was staging a power play," Murad Muhammad said.

He said he had received a telegram from promoter Don King, who has promoted many of Ali's fights, saying that he had arranged for Holmes to fight Ali in Rio de Janeiro. "Mr. King's word is his bond," Muhammad said.

Murad Muhammad said he would be associated with King in the promotion.

In other boxing news from Copenhagen, Ugandan Ayub Kalule battered Colombian challenger Emiliano Villa to defeat Thursday to retain his World Boxing Association light-middleweight title.

The 27-year-old Colombian retired with bad cuts over the eyes in the 11th-round of the 15-round contest.

Villa started aggressively and floored Kalule with a powerful left hook half-way through the fourth. But the round ended with him at the receiving end of two lefts and rights, which took some of the bounce out of him.

The turning point came in the fiery seventh round when Kalule, 26, opened up a serious cut above the Colombian's left eye.

In the ninth and 10th, the champion's left-right combinations began to take their toll, and a doctor had to be called to inspect Villa's damaged eyes.

When Referee Joseph Samcampia of the U.S. stopped the fight in the following round after the Colombian's managers signalled their man could take no more punishment, the champion — undefeated in 33 fights — was well ahead on points.

Referee Samcampia gave the Ugandan a 108-101 point lead, an the two American judges put his ahead by 107-102 points.

It was the Colombian's 45th professional fight and his debut in Europe. For the Ugandan, it was the first title fight to finish inside the distance.

When Kalule took the title last October from Masashi Kudo of Japan, the fight went the full 15 rounds, so did his previous challenge bout against American Steve Gregory in December.

After his victory, Kalule said: "Tonight's fight was not too much of a challenge for me. Kudo was much more lively, his punches much more unpredictable."

He added: "Villa was just the sort of opponent I love. He came at me all the time, and I could fend him off with ease, at a maximum of danger. I think I would have stopped him if we had fought on."



MOTOCROSS: At the April 13 World Motocross Championships, Andre Malherbe of Belgium displays the skill that won him the 1980 title in the Fayerne, Switzerland race. Malherbe was competing in the 500cc class. Behind him is American Brad Lackey, who placed second.

Vermaak takes surprise WTA win

AMELA ISLAND, Florida, April 18 (AP) — Unseeded South African Yvonne Vermaak mixed drops and deep topspin backhands to upset No. 2 seeded Evonne Goolagong, 6-2, 6-4, Thursday in the second round of the \$100,000 Womeo's Tennis Association championships.

Vermaak, ranked 43rd in the world by the WTA, had never taken a set from Goolagong in three previous meetings.

Goolagong appeared to have recovered, taking a 4-2 lead in the second set, breaking Vermaak's service in the sixth game.

But Vermaak came roaring back and

broke service in the next frame, losing only five points the rest of the way for a 6-4 victory.

Vermaak faced another unseeded player, Leslie Allen, in quarterfinals Friday. Allen had advanced in an upset over seventh-seeded Regina Marsikova of Czechoslovakia, who was forced to retire in the first set with a sprained ankle.

Top-seeded Martina Navratilova, Czechoslovakian-born, also advanced into Friday's quarterfinals, scoring an easy 6-2, 6-1 win over Pam Teeguarden. Navratilova faced Pam Shriver in Friday's feature match. Results of the Friday matches were unavailable.

Floyd leads 1st round in LPGA Citrus Open

ORLANDO, Florida, April 18 (AP) — Marlene Floyd, seeking her first victory in a five years on the LPGA tour, tied her career best Thursday with a 67 for the first-round lead in the \$100,000 Florida Lady Citrus Open.

After paring the front nine holes with a 36, Florida birdied four holes and closed with an eagle for a 6-under 31 on the back nine.

The 32-year-old sister of PGA pro Raymond Floyd eagled the 450-yard 18th by reaching the green in two and striking a 15-footer.

Floyd took a two-shot lead over the fellow American rookie Mary Dickerson, former California basketball player Janet Coles and tour veteran Hollis Stacy, who had a 696.

Six players tied at 70, including Bonnie Bryant, the Ladies Professional Golf Association tour's only lefthander, defending U.S. Open champion Jerilyn Britz and Canadian veteran Sandra Pratt.

Jane Blalock, who won the inaugural Lady Citrus last year, was among seven at 71 as 22 players bettered par 73 on the 6,200-yard Rio Pinar Country Club course.

1980 Footballer of the Year named

LONDON, April 18 (AFP) — Terry McDermott, Liverpool's England International midfielder, is the 1980 Footballer of the year.

Rumors-up with equal votes were Tottenham's Glen Hoddle and Westham's Trevor Brooking, followed by Osvaldo Ardiles, of sports, and Manchester City's goalkeeper Joe Corrigan.

McDermott, who collected 35 per cent of

the votes in a field of a record 17 candidates, is the first player ever to win the trophy, presented by the football writers association and also the players own award in the same season.

England manager Ron Greenwood will present the trophy May 8 to McDermott at the annual footballer of the year dinner at the Cafe Royal in London.

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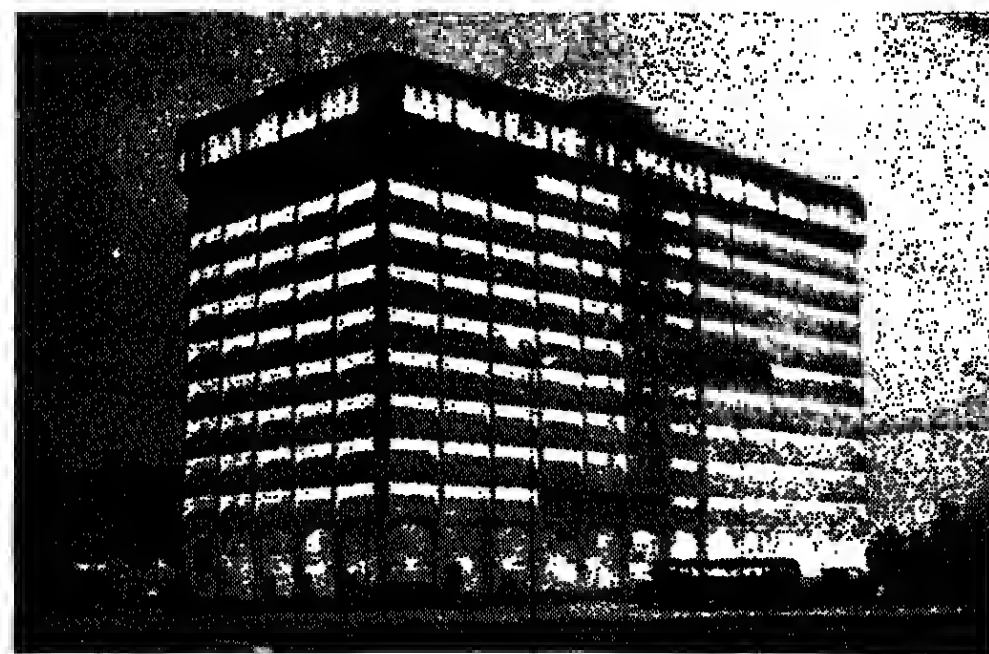
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مكتبة الرياض

Tanner, Smith, Mayer acing Kramer Open

FOUNTAIN VALLEY, California, April 18 (AP) — Top seeded Gene Mayer, second-seed Roscoe Tanner and rejuvenated Stan Smith won impressively in Thursday matches to advance to the quarterfinals of the \$175,000 Jack Kramer Tennis Open.

Mayer won a tiebreaker for his first victory by beating Australia's John Alexander and had little trouble thereafter in his 7-6, 6-3

third-round victory in the tournament at Los Caballeros Racquet and Sport Club.

Tanner, his hair straight again after a year of curly locks, also had his rocket serve on line producing 14 aces to defeat John Kriek of South Africa 6-3, 6-2.

Kriek, who defeated Tanner in the first round of a February tournament at Palm Springs, double-faulted five times.

Smith, seeded fifth and playing better than he has since the early 1970s to win some recent tournaments, crushed Tomas Smid of Czechoslovakia 6-1, 6-2.

The only seeded player to fall in Thursday afternoon matches was eighth-seeded Elint Teitscher, beaten by Butch Walts 7-6, 6-1.

The one non-American winner in the afternoon matches was Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia, who topped Tim Gullickson 4-6, 6-1, 6-4.

Bill Scanlon also advanced, defeating Tom Leonard 5-7, 7-5, 6-4. Scanlon defeated third-seed Harold Solomon Wednesday.

Two more quarterfinalists were to emerge from matches Thursday night — Rumania's Ilie Nastase against Brian Teacher, and Yarnick Noah of France facing Wojtek Dabak of Poland.

Arthur Ashe retires

SAN FRANCISCO, April 18 (R) — Former Wimbledon champion Arthur Ashe, who underwent heart surgery five months ago, Wednesday announced his retirement from competitive tennis.

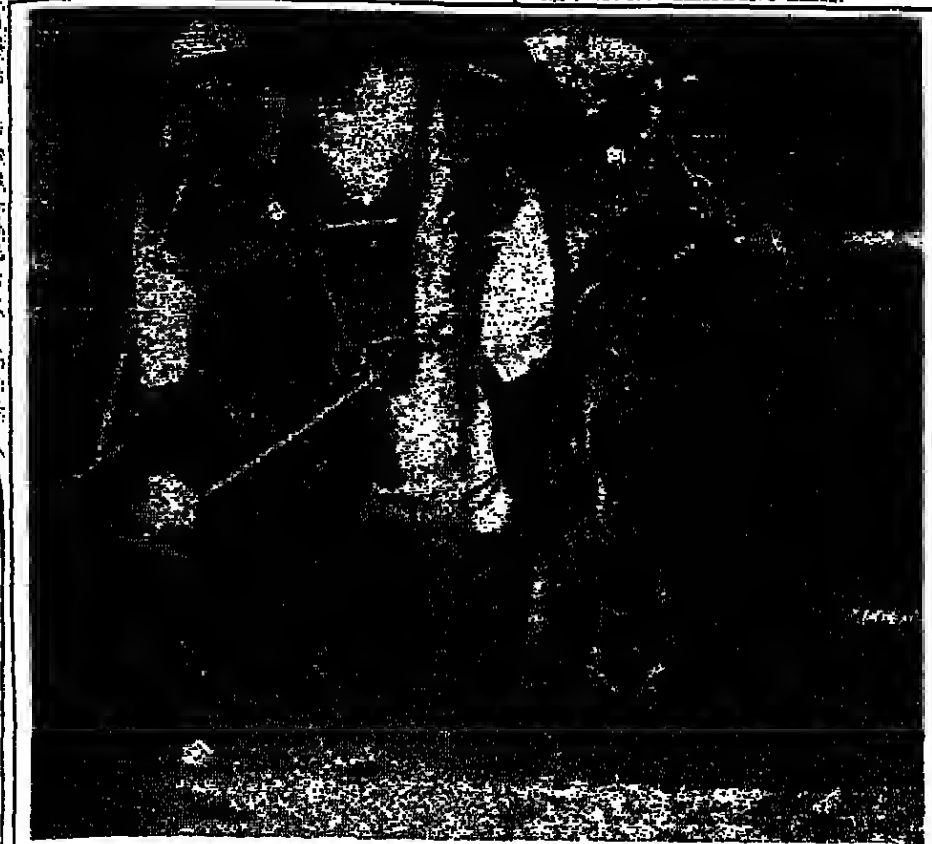
The greatest black male player the game has ever seen told reporters: "I won't be entering any more tournaments."

Ashe, 36, had a quadruple bypass heart operation in December after a heart attack July 31. The surgery was successful and he said afterwards that he intended to resume his career possibly competing this summer at Wimbledon, where he won the men's singles title in 1975.

Ashe said his health was one of many factors that influenced his decision to retire from competition.

"The doctors say I will live to be 100, but they won't put it in writing," he joked.

Asked about his place in history as the first black man to win major tennis tournaments, Ashe replied: "I think we (blacks) will continue to dominate in sports and I am trying to see if we can do a little better dominating out of sports as well."



POLO CHALLENGE: England's Julian Hipwood (left) charges ahead of an unidentified Texan playing for the Rotama team during the World Cup Finals polo match last week. Hipwood's team, sponsored by Nigeria, won the World Cup last Sunday in Palm Beach, Florida.

Seven under par in round one

Watson leads year's best in Tournament of Champions

CARLSBAD, California, April 18 (AP) — Tom Watson had just completed what he called "the finest round I've played all year." He'd shot a 7-under-par 65. He'd missed the course record by a single stroke.

And he's looking for improvement.

Actually, the 65 that set the first round pace Thursday in the \$370,000 Tournament of Champions could have been a little better.

"What I did was turn a 62 or 63 into a 65," Watson said. "I feel it could have been a very, very good round."

He one-putted 10 times and missed four other birdie opportunities from 6 to 8 feet.

It's all the result of a tiny correction he made in his swing, Watson said.

As the first man off the tee in the exclusive event that brings together only the winners of

pro golf tour titles from the past 12 months, Watson got his score on the board first and forced the rest of the 30-man field into a catch-up position.

It produced some exceptionally low scoring on the tough, 6,889-yard La Costa Country Club course.

"The reason for the scoring is Tom Watson," said Ray Floyd. "He was in the first group and turned in such a good score, it forced the other players to play well."

Floyd scored nine birdies and had a share of the lead until he bogeyed the 18th hole.

That finished off a 66 that tied him with Lou Graham for second, Jim Colbert was next with a 67.

Seve Ballesteros, the young Spaniard who won the Masters last week, was striking the

ball well but bogeyed three of his last four holes. "It could happen to anyone," Ballesteros said after finishing with a 70.

Lee Trevino also had a 70. U.S. Open Champion Hale Irwin and PGA Titleholder David Graham of Australia matched par-72 in the hazy, breezy weather.

In Tallahassee, Florida, Bob Murphy, shaking off a dislocated shoulder, sank a 55-foot eagle putt and added four birdies for a course-record 29 no the back nine Thursday to take the first-round lead in the \$100,000 Tallahassee Open tournament.

Murphy, a nonwinner on the PGA tour since 1975, totaled a 7-under-par 65 for a two-stroke lead over 1976 tournament winner Gary Koch, Rex Caldwell and rookie Tom Jones, who tied at 67.

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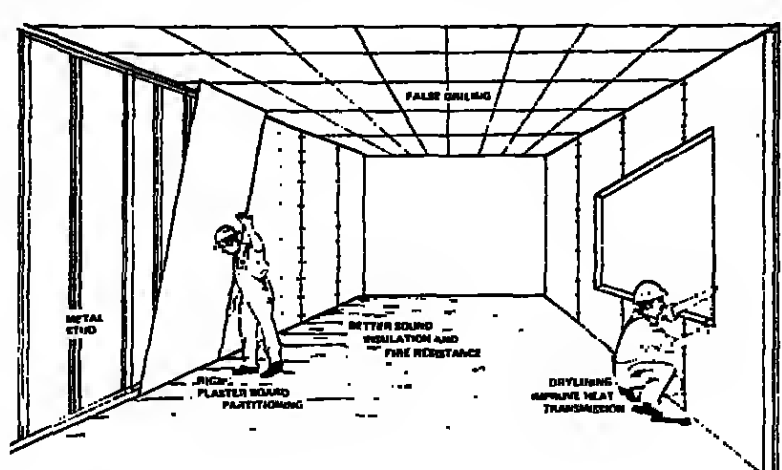


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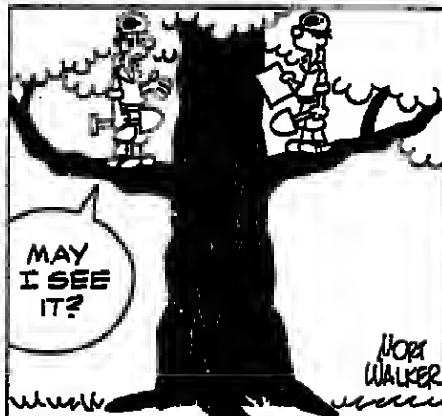
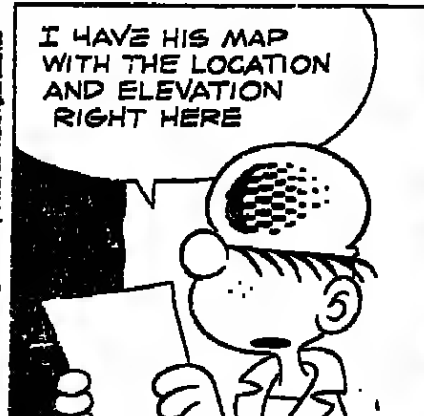
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Contract Bridge B. Jay Becker

Bidding Quiz

You are South, both sides vulnerable. The bidding has been:

West North East South
1♥ 1♠ Pass

What would you bid now with each of the following four hands?

1. ♠Q6 ♥KJ94 ♠AJ3 ♠KQJ5
2. ♠K32 ♥74 ♠AQ872 ♠93
3. ♠AQ74 ♥5 ♠K33 ♠KQJ96
4. ♠J5 ♥QJ82 ♠AJ9 ♠AJ64

1. Three notrump. A jump to game is clearly indicated. True, North's spade bid doesn't promise the World's Fair, since it is usually based on less than opening bid values, but still there must be some kind of trick-taking potential indicated by the overcall.

2. Two notrump would be an underbid and would merely urge North to bid again, without compelling him to do so. Partner should not be given a chance to fall short of the mark when it is clear that game must be reached.

3. Two spades. It is best to show the spade support at once. To bid two diamonds at this point would be begging the issue without accomplishing anything. Sometimes you hear players say that two diamonds in this sequence indicates spade support, but this is a gross misconception of proper bidding technique. The right way to show spade support is by raising spades; the right way to deny spade support is by naming a new suit.

There isn't much hope for game, but even so, it is important to tell partner right away that you have trump support and at least a moderate hand.

4. Four spades. This is no time to be picking daisies; you have the values for game and you should express them forthwith. To invite partner to bid game by raising him to only three spades would be dead wrong, because you might get left at the post.

It is neither necessary nor desirable to mention the clubs. Partner will see them as soon as dummy comes down.

5. Two notrump. You can't take unilateral action here, since the possibility of game depends chiefly on whether North's overcall is based on minimum, medium or maximum values. He may have as few as 7 points or as many as 13, but he is in a far better position to know what he has than you are.

So you leave the decision on how far to go to your partner, acting on the sensible basis that he is just as anxious to bid and make a game as you are.

Your Individual Horoscope

Frances Drake
FOR SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 1980

What kind of day will tomorrow be? To find out what the stars say, read the forecast given for your birth sign.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) ♈
Creative activities and short jaunts bring joy. Romance has something special about it. The p.m. ends on a very happy note.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) ♉
A good day for shopping. Be on the lookout for an exquisite item for the home. Home entertainments go well. New romantic opportunity.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) ♊
You're in an energetic mood and can cover a lot of territory. Friendships, love and recreational fun all contribute to happiness.

CANCER (June 21 to July 21) ♋
Privacy brings inspiration plus practical insights. A short trip brings pleasure. Take a chance on a creative project.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 22) ♌
A very creative person may come into your orbit. A financial tip proves lucky if kept confidential. Social life — a plus!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) ♍
Spending time on a career project pays off. You may be introduced to someone prominent. Accent creativity for success.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) ♎
An introduction to someone with children. Cultural activities and group projects favored. Evening looks good for romance and artistic insights.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) ♏
Accept an invitation for travel. New friends prove beneficial. A work project is less difficult than anticipated. Satisfaction is the result.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) ♐
A time to either strengthen existing romantic ties or to fall in love. Creative pursuits with loved ones bring happiness for everyone.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) ♑
You'll make important progress on a work project and also have time for togetherness with a romantic interest.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) ♒
Sports and recreational activities prove stimulating. Later, you'll want to take advantage of a good work opportunity. Romance possible.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to Mar. 20) ♓
Good indications for a do-it-yourself project. An invitation to socialize should also be accepted.

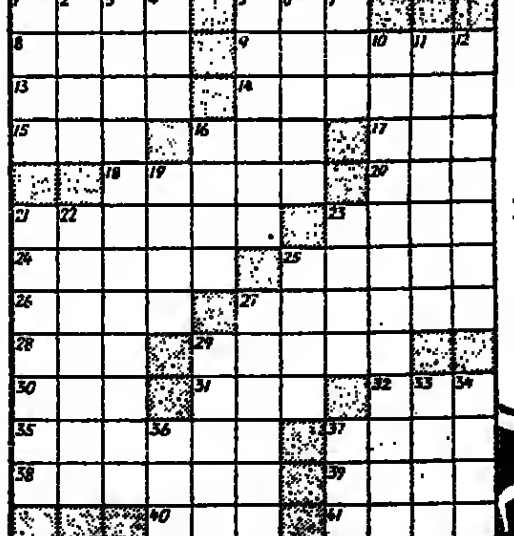
Crossword

by THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS
1 Summit
5 Lamentable
8 African
9 Undies fabric
13 Ruse
14 Dele
15 Pierre's summer
16 Cavity
17 Debussy's "La —"
18 Clerical vestment
20 Do badly
21 Zealous
23 Calif. city
24 Song thrush
25 Trial site
26 Jewish month
27 Less intelligent
28 Greed
29 sloth, e.g.
30 Basic belief
31 — and Fox
31 Porker
32 Deserter
35 Unending, to a poet
37 Forbidden thing
38 Forbear
39 Sicilian city
40 Billy — Williams

CLARE
REBEL
IN THE AISLES
RESERVE EDE
POISON TOAT
ALTAIR BARRE
REEL MATTER
EMIL
ACT AT LAST
SHOWSTOPPER
TONE'S TITANIC
OPTINE CRAM

Yesterday's Answer
16 Fraternity
17 Symbols
19 Famed
21 Israeli
22 Gathered
23 Shine
25 Consonant
26 Jacket slit
27 Born: Fr.



DAILY CRYPTOQUOTE — Here's how to work it:
A X Y D L B A A X R
is L O N G F E L L O W

One letter simply stands for another. In this sample A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

CRYPTOQUOTES

WY EGQ RDBWYT EGQ RMHMB-
HVVWEQ NAAZR VE GWR NVUY
VYO GADQR EGQ DNAE UWN

EGW X Z Q Y. — V Y A Y
Yesterday's Cryptquote: TO TEACH RICH MEN TO ENJOY LIFE WOULD MEAN TO ASK THEM TO GIVE MONEY AWAY, WHICH IS DIFFICULT, TO SAY THE LEAST. — LI LIWENG

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arab news CALENDAR

DHAHRAN TV

4:30 Children's Show
5:22 Disneyland
Safety Film
6:40 Salvage 1
7:32 All in the family
7:57 Man under Cover
8:45 Stars Look down
9:36 Tales of the unexpected

Kidsworld No. 91: Super seven FF No. 4.
Strange Monster of Strawberry covermons & Souff
How to have an accident in the home
Diamond Volcano
No. 615
Cage of steel
Rebuilding
William and Mary

VOA

P.M.
8:00 News Roundup
Reports: Accidents;
Options: Analysis
8:30 Deadline
News Summary
9:00 Special English:
News, Feature, The
Making of a Nation
News Summary
9:30 Voice USA
(Standard)
10:00 News Roundup
Reports: Accidents;
Options: Analysis
10:05 Opening: Analysis

News Summary
10:30 VOC Magazine
America: Letter
Cultural: Letter
11:00 Special English: News
11:30 Music U.S.: (Jazz)

VOA WORLD REPORT
Midnight
12:00 News Roundup
reports background
features media
comments news analysis.

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SATURDAY
Afternoon Transmission
2:00 Opening
2:01 Holy Quran
2:05 Gems of Guidance
2:10 Islamic Activities in Focus
2:20 On Islam
2:30 A Chat and a Song
3:00 NEWS
3:10 Press Review
3:15 Music
3:20 Majesty of Islam
3:30
3:40 A selection of Music
3:50 Closedown

Evening Transmission
9:00 Opening
9:01 Holy Quran
9:05 Gems of Guidance
9:10 Light Music
9:15 Hope and Music
9:45 The Golden Age
10:00 A Viewpoint
10:01 Music
10:02 NEWS
10:25 S.A. — A Daily Chronicle
10:30 Melody Maker
11:00 A Leaf from Life's Notebook
11:15 Top of the Pops
11:45 On Islam
12:00 Melody Time
12:30 Music
12:45 A Rendezvous with Dreams
01:00 Closedown

BBC

Morning Transmission
8:00 World News
8:09 Twenty-Four Hours
9:00 News Summary
9:30 Sarah Ward
8:45 World Today
9:00 Newsday
9:30 Opera Star
10:00 World News
10:09 Twenty-Four Hours
News Summary
10:30 Sarah Ward
10:45 Some "ag to show you"
11:00 World News
11:09 Reflections
11:15 Piano Style
11:30 Brain of Britain 1978
12:00 World News
12:09 British Press Review
12:15 World Today
12:30 Financial News
12:40 Look Ahead
12:45 The Tony Mynar

Evening Transmission
1:15 Ulster in Focus
1:30 Discovery
2:00 World News
2:09 News about Britain
2:15 Alphabet of Musical Cities
2:30 Sports International
2:40 Radio Newsworld
3:23 Promenade Concert
3:45 Sports Round-up
4:00 World News
4:09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
4:30 The Pleasure of Years
5:15 Report on Religion
6:00 Radio Newsworld
6:15 Outlook
7:00 World News
7:09 Commentary
7:15 Shetland Holmes
7:45 World Today
8:00 World News
8:09 Books and Writers

8:30 Take One
8:45 Sports Round-up
9:00 World News
9:09 News about Britain
9:15 Radio Newsworld
9:30 Evening World
10:00 Outlook News Summary
10:39 Stock Market Report
10:45 Look Ahead
10:45 Ulster in Focus
11:00 World News
11:09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
12:15 Talkabout
12:45 Nature Notebook
1:00 World News
1:09 World Today
1:25 Financial News
1:35 Book Choice
1:40 Reflections
1:45 Sports Round-up
2:00 World News
2:09 Commentary
2:15 The Pace of England

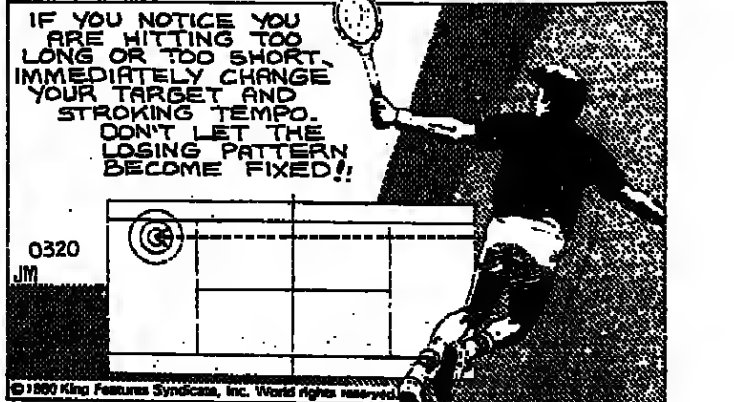
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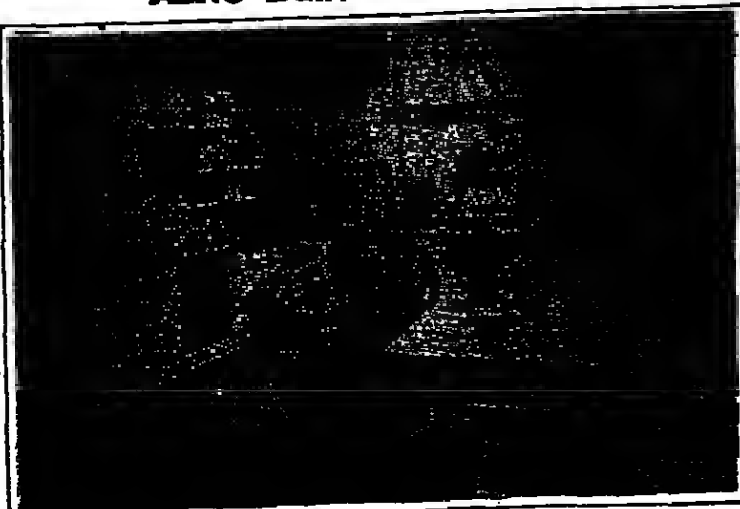
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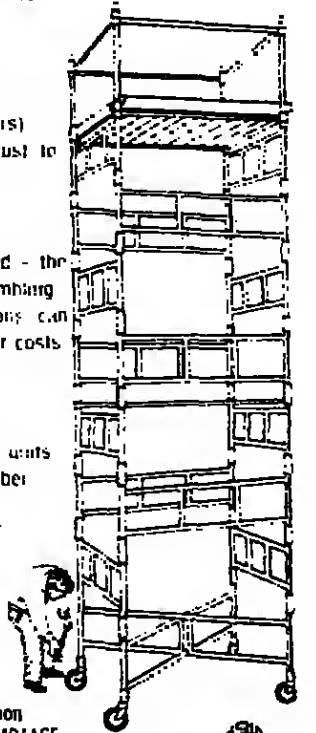
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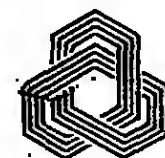
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International

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Khomeini scoffs at new sanctions

TEHRAN, April 18 (AP) — U.S. President Jimmy Carter tightened more economic screws in Iran and promised military action if the American hostages are not freed, Portugal cut off all trade with Iran and Ayatollah Khomeini defied them both.

Carter banned U.S. imports from Iran Thursday, ordered the freeing for U.S. use or sale of impounded military equipment purchased by Iran, said he would seek congressional authority to pay reparations to the hostages and their families out of more than \$8 billion in Iranian assets he froze November, barred financial transactions with anyone in Iran, except those involved in journalism, and prohibited Americans other than journalists from traveling to Iran without U.S. government permission.

He told a news conference in Washington

Gold prices up; dollar slips as prime rate falls

LONDON, April 18 (AP) — The U.S. dollar slipped against most key currencies Friday after American banks cut their prime lending rates, making the U.S. currency less attractive. The price of gold rose.

Some dealers said they believe U.S. interest rates have peaked, responding to president Jimmy Carter's warning that more anti-inflationary measures are likely over the next few months.

They said that U.S. economic troubles and the intensifying crisis over the U.S. hostages in Iran will likely affect the dollar, but stressed that interest rate trends will remain the most important factor in the immediate future.

Several big U.S. banks cut their lending rate by 0.5 per cent to 19.5 per cent Friday.

The dollar's dip left it generally down against most major currencies for the week. In Tokyo, the dollar rallied to regain some of the ground it lost over the past week, but it closed at 248.65 yen, only slightly up on Thursday's close of 247.75 yen, a five-week low.

Dealers there commented that it was difficult to predict how the currency will fare next week because the market is uneasy over the lending rate level and the Iranian crisis.

In London, the dollar made its only other marginal gain of the day. It cost \$ 2.2265 to buy one British pound compared to \$ 2.2280 Thursday.

The price of gold, which usually rises when the dollar's value slips, closed in Zurich at \$ 515.50 an ounce, up \$ 5 from Thursday's close.

In London, Europe's other major bullion market, it closed at \$ 511.00 an ounce — one dollar better than Thursday.

The closing London silver price was \$ 14.75 an ounce, — down from Thursday's \$ 14.87.

Closing gold prices (in U.S. dollars per troy ounce):

	Friday	Thursday
London	511.00	510.00
Paris	525.49	
Frankfurt	515.00	514.03
Zurich	515.50	510.50
Hong Kong	511.35	509.29

he was considered banning shipments of U.S. food and medicine to Iran and blocking its use of Intelsat, the international communications satellite. He warned that if non-military action did not result in the freeing of the 53 Americans held in Tehran, "then the only next step available that I can see would be some sort of military action which is the prerogative and the right of the United States under these circumstances."

Aerial mining of Iran's ports at the head of the Gulf appeared to be the most likely military action, U.S. naval warfare specialists said. A-6 attack planes like the ones that mined North Vietnam's ports could be used from the two U.S. aircraft carriers now in the Arabian Sea.

The main objective would be to close the oil export terminal at Kharg Island, where tankers load up for Western Europe and Japan.

Portugal stopped trade with Iran, barred Portuguese ships from taking goods there from nations whose governments have embargoed those items, and halted financial deals and participation of Portuguese firms in Iranian industrial projects.

The Portuguese government, which imported 21 per cent of its oil from Iran, said the embargo would remain in effect "until the release of the hostages," held in the U.S. embassy in Tehran and the Iranian Foreign Office since Nov. 4.

While America's nine allies in the European Common Market continued to delay, their representatives in the European Parliament urged the nine governments to consider breaking diplomatic relations with Iran, as Carter did April 7. A decision on allied action is expected Monday, when the foreign ministers of the nine countries meet in Luxembourg.

Khomeini, the leader of the Iranian revolutionary regime, and Foreign Minister Sadeq Ghotbzadeh scoffed at Carter and the U.S. allies. They said Iran would counter any sanctions or naval blockade. Khomeini urged the Iranian people to be ready to defend the country if attacked.

"Iran should not be beset by fears because they want to besiege it economically or militarily. We are not afraid of an economic blockade," the Shiite patriarch told "popular mobilization committees," Radio Tehran reported.

"Carter's main concern is to be president for another four years in order to commit crimes for another four years. This is all he wants and it seems that he has failed to realize this goal."

Khomeini said if Iran is attacked "all the inhabitants of the country — man and women, young and old — should rise in its defense ... they should be in total readiness for guerrilla warfare and their faith in Islam should be strong."

Meanwhile, Kurdish rebel sources said a Kurdish guerrilla and two civilians were killed in fighting in northwest Iran around the town of Sahze. The sources said the rebels were occupying a strategic ridge and using helicopter gunships.

A Kurdish spokesman said the tribal rebels, who have been fighting off and on for autonomy ever since the overthrow of the Shah, were also preventing the army from entering Sandandaj, the provincial capital of Kurdistan.



MAN WITH A HORN: Musician Lionel Hampton accompanies Lucille Armstrong after the unveiling a large statue of her late husband, Louis Armstrong, in New Orleans recently.

Statue depicts jazzman

City honors Armstrong

NEW ORLEANS, April 18 (AP) — This U.S. city has opened a \$ 10 million shrine to jazz and its supreme trumpet man, the late Louis Armstrong, next to old Congo Square — where slave dances sowed the seeds of jazz.

Armstrong's widow, Lucille, unveiled an 8.8 meter bronze statue depicting Armstrong standing with handkerchief and horn in hand, looking down on the crowd with a faint, somewhat sardonic smile on what he called his chops.

A seven-hour jam session, echoing from outdoor stages, included stunts by Count Basie, Dave Brubeck, Lionel Hampton, Al Hirt and Allen Toussaint.

This week's ceremony was the kickoff of the two-week New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, which includes concerts and fairs through April 27.

Armstrong Park covers some 12 hectares and includes a lagoon and four bridges and a fancy fountain. It has a gaudy art-deco arch

facing on Rampart Street, the outer rim of the French Quarter, with porcelain panels to make it glitter in the sun. At night it flows with colored lights.

The area, backed up against slums with a high crime potential, is regarded a possible trap for unwary tourists who might wander in.

It was only a few blocks away that an executive of the Borden Co. was shot and killed last month in a highly-publicized mugging when he wandered out of the French Quarter looking for a restaurant.

The whole neighborhood is ripe with New Orleans history.

Storyville, the old red-light district, used to thrive nearby. Rampart Street parades blared by.

Congo Square is where slaves used to be allowed to congregate on Sundays to play and chant. Historians say that after a while white and black music began to mix. The offspring was jazz, regarded as the only truly American art form.

Sunspots or no sunspots?

Chinese reject solar theory

HONG KONG, April 18 (AFP) — Three hundred Communist Chinese scientists and historians are challenging an American scholar's hypothesis that sunspot activity ceased for 70 years from 1645 to 1715.

The hypothesis, put forward in 1976 by John Eddy, is the "Maunder minimum" theory, pioneered in the last century by E. W. Maunder and Gustav Spörer, the New China News Agency (NCNA) said.

In three years, over 300 Chinese scientists and historians researched more than 8,000 collections of old records totaling 150,000 volumes from various Chinese counties, as well as dynastic histories from antiquity to 1911, it said.

They discovered 46 reports of major sunspot activity in the 17th century and 13 in the "Maunder" period identified by John Eddy, NCNA said.

Earlier *The Times* of London had carried a story recording the comments of Dr. Christopher Cullen, a Cambridge University researcher of oriental science history, NCNA added.

Cullen had read a paper written by two Chinese astronomers which mentioned records of sunspots visible with the naked eye during the "Maunder" period, and urged more historical research to establish the reliability of the old Chinese records.

The 300 Chinese scientists, and historians worked with the help of the Chinese academy of sciences, the ministry of education and the

state administrative bureau of museums and archaeological data, NCNA said.

Ting Youji, Lo Baorong and Feng Yongming of the Yunnan Observatory in southwest China, and Zou Vixin of the Peking Observatory, wrote papers in 1978 confirming the 11-year, 60-year, and 250-year cycles of sunspot activity based on their research of old records.

They concluded that Eddy's hypothesis was based on insufficient data, the agency said.

Xu Zhentao of the Nanjing Purple Mountain Observatory and Jiang Yaotao of Nanjing University, a husband-and-wife team, whose paper caught the attention of Dr. Christopher Cullen, also confirmed in 1979 that sunspot activity followed the 11-year cycle during the "Maunder" period, NCNA said.

Monarch wins free trip

KUALA LUMPUR, April 18 (R) — The King of Malaysia has won a week's free holiday in Italy in a lucky draw arranged by the local distributors of Italian Alfa Romeo cars.

The draw for 12 winners of a package tour was open to recent Alfa Romeo buyers and the Yang Dipertuan Agong (Malaysia's elected king) was one of them.

A motor company spokesman said the king had been told about his prize, but was not likely to join the package tour. The winning ticket can be transferred, the spokesman said.

Americans staying out of Russia

MOSCOW, April 18 (AP) — U.S. tourism to the Soviet Union has declined since the start of this year and some Western air traffic to Moscow has also dropped, according to Soviet and Western travel sources.

The sources said the drops appear linked in part to growing international tension, including doubts by tourists and businessmen about whether they should come to Moscow. A smaller part of the decline, they said, may be a natural wind-down in advance of the summer Olympics.

Despite political tension, Americans who have come to Moscow say their treatment has been good. U.S. trade officials say businessmen who come here despite the American government's efforts to curb trade have received unusually warm receptions.

The Soviet foreign travel service Intourist, stressing its open-door policy, laid on a caviar reception this week for visiting U.S. travel agents.

"I think it's even friendlier here now," said Ben Hutchinson, a travel agent from Madison, Wisconsin. "Maybe they are making a greater effort these days."

Intourist officials declined to officially release recent statistics on tourists they handle from the United States, who usually number about 90,000 a year. Intourist guides told several Western tour groups recently that U.S. business is down, and a travel agent said he heard similar complaints at a business meeting this month with Intourist representatives.

Sputnik, the Soviet agency for young visitors, said it hosted 1,000 from Jan. 1 to mid-April last year but only 132 in the same period this year. Sputnik officials claimed the decline has been due exclusively to cancellations by U.S. group organizers.

Visiting U.S. travel agents added that their own bookings for Soviet tours were down sharply. One agent, who declined to be quoted by name, said orders for Soviet tours through his organization were down this year by 80 per cent.

The agents said treatment of American tourists recently has been good, and that some of their American clients still hope to travel to the Moscow Olympics.

Travel agents said Intourist officials appeared hopeful that relations between Moscow and Washington will improve after the U.S. elections. They hope the travel business will improve as well.

Western airline representatives in Moscow say traffic on some routes into the Soviet capital has been down by 20 per cent or more since the start of the year, a decline that could jeopardize profitability if it continues.

Traffic from other areas, including Germany and Scandinavia, appears to be holding even.

"A lot of businessmen who used to come here 'on spec' — without guaranteed meetings or orders — seem to feel the atmosphere just isn't right for that kind of thing now," a European airline representative said. "This applies to Europeans as well as Americans."

Good Morning

By Jihad Khazen

It's not a matter of belief in the stars and what they portend. Nor extraterrestrial beings and forces — little green men from Mars — making it their business that this one wins and that one loses, nor even more mysteriously, that that one is a winner and that is that, and that is a loser and ditto.

Winners are something of a bore, so let's talk of some great losers I had the honor to meet. Of these was an office boy employed with us some time ago. The lad, and a paragon of good sense and intelligence he was too in all matters bar losing, was sent once to fetch something from a neighboring newspaper. He went and disappeared for hours. When he came back finally he was in something of a state. He was, it transpired, stuck in the lift of that building, the first time this ever happened, as we were assured, in that building.

That, you may think, doesn't prove anything. And you'd be right. Except that on that same evening, in fact it was quite late at night, I received a phone call from that same lad. He was stuck in our office building this time. He had gone to the bathroom and must have stayed there more than he thought since when he emerged, everyone had gone and the doors were all locked for the night. He had spent all that time trying all possible exits without success and had finally started phoning everyone he could think of for help. No one was there — until that is, I happened to answer.

That day, as we soon discovered, was by no means abnormal, as far as the lad was concerned. That, as far as he knew, was life...

But this young man's constant ill luck is nothing in comparison to that of a friend of mine from the old days of Beirut. A not untypical adventure of his was the perfectly simple transaction of buying a second hand car from Europe and attempting to drive it to Beirut. He was caught in Athens by Interpol, who, apparently had been shadowing him from the time he started his journey. The car, it turned out, was stolen and all its papers forged. He was of course innocent, but not as far as Interpol was concerned, and had to stay in an Athens jail until this was proved.

But that was not one of my friend's best performances — indeed it was nothing. One day he came into the office and we all gasped. His clothes were torn, he was badly bruised, and was covered in dust. "What happened?" we asked. "Oh, nothing," he replied calmly, "a truck just fell on me." A what? And we all jumped to him, trying to make him lie down, take off his tie — all of which were rebuffed. "What's all the fuss," he said. "I was walking under Fuad Shebab bridge and this truck broke through the barrier and fell on me."

Just like that.

Translated from Ashraf Al-Awsat

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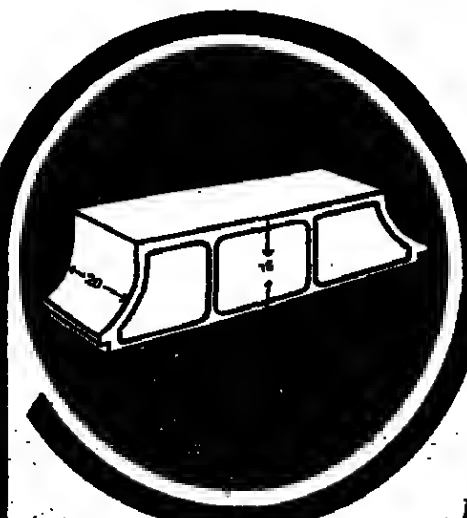
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